

February 18, 2008

This Week's Program

Educational Design to Meet Challenging Talent Needs – Charles Giamonna

Next Week's Program

Brent Olson, Author

Important Dates to Remember

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 March Programs

Mar 3 Classification Talk

Mar 10 Club Assembly
(Club Constitution & Bylaws)

Mar 17 Bemidji School of TaeKwonDo

New Member Orientation

Scheduled for February 21st at noon at the 4West Building across from the post office.

Bemidji to Host GSE Team from Sweden

The GSE team from Sweden will be in Bemidji from May 8th-10th. If you are interested in being a host family during this time, contact **Gary Johnson**.

District #5580 Conference

Contact **Amy Saeland** for room reservation information, if you are interested in attending the District 5580 Conference being held in Dickinson, ND, on May 1-4.

Dragon Boat Festival

The Dragon Boat Festival will be held this year on August 1 & 2, 2008. Again your help is needed to make it a success. Contact **Shelly Geerdes**, **Amy Saeland** or **Gary Johnson** for more information about committees. The cost for teams that register before March 1st is \$650, after that date it's \$750. Corporate sponsorships are still available.

Rotary Playhouse 2008

Matt Mostad has been hired to build the Rotary playhouse this year. Donation materials are still needed and, of course, volunteers to help with the finishing touches on the playhouse. It should be completed by early March in time for the Home,

Sport and Travel show this spring. Contact **Scott Turn** to volunteer.

Group Study Exchange (GSE)

One of the most popular and rewarding programs of The Rotary Foundation is Group Study Exchange. Since the first exchange between districts in California and Japan in 1965, the program has provided education experiences for over 35,000 business and professional men and women who have served on over 65,000 teams. The GSE program pairs Rotary districts to send and receive study teams. Since 1965, almost \$65 million has been allocated by The Rotary Foundation for Group Study Exchange grants.

One of the attractive features of GSE is the opportunity for the visiting members to meet, talk and live with Rotarians and their families in a warm spirit of friendship and hospitality.

In addition to learning about another country through visits to farms, schools, industrial plants, professional offices and governmental establishments, the GSE teams serve as ambassadors of goodwill. They interpret their home nation to host Rotarians and others in the communities they visit. In recent years, teams of a single vocation or cultural groups have been exchanged. Some GSE teams help create humanitarian projects between their countries. Many of the personal contacts blossom into lasting friendships.

Truly, the Group Study Exchange program has provided Rotarians with one of its most enjoyable, practical and meaningful ways to promote world understanding.

Rotary Youth Leadership Camp (RYLA)

Under the RYLA program, clubs and districts sponsor seminars to encourage and recognize leadership abilities of youth and young adults ages 14-30. In an informal atmosphere, groups of outstanding young men and women spend a week in a challenging program of leadership training, discussions, inspirational addresses and social activities designed to enhance personal development, leadership skills and good citizenship.