

March 3, 2008

**This Week's Program**  
*Classification Talk – Wayne Hoff*  
**Next Week's Program**  
*Club Assembly – Gary Johnson*

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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

**Dragon Boat Festival**

August 1-2, 2008

**Upcoming March Programs**

Mar 17	Bemidji School of TaeKwonDo
Mar 24	Macedonia Literacy/Library Project
Mar 31	Classification Talk

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

<b>Larry Stember</b>	Mar 2
<b>Carol Nelson</b>	Mar 5
<b>Lowell Pierce</b>	Mar 8
<b>Karl Blesser</b>	Mar 9
<b>Bob Fitzgerald</b>	Mar 9
<b>Leonore Potter</b>	Mar 12
<b>Debbie Drinkard-Grovum</b>	Mar 14
<b>John Lueth</b>	Mar 19
<b>Joanne Torfin</b>	Mar 23
<b>Wendy Otness</b>	Mar 24
<b>Steve Rith-Najarian</b>	Mar 28
<b>Kevin Cease</b>	Mar 31

**Banner Exchange**

Recently 2 of our fellow Rotarians have visited clubs in distant places and exchanged our Bemidji Rotary banner with theirs. **John Reff** brought a banner back from Placencia, Belize, and **Gary Johnson** from Clarksville, Maryland.

**Dragon Boat Festival**

Plans for the third annual Dragon Boat Festival continue. Contact **Shelly Geerdes**, **Amy Saeland** or **Gary Johnson** for more information.

**Major Awards Received in Recognition of PolioPlus**

Since 1985, Rotary International has garnered many awards recognizing the effectiveness of its efforts in support of global polio eradication and other public health efforts. Here are a few of the more notable honors received.

**2006** – World Food Programme's Award for Exemplary Humanitarian Leadership to RI for helping to give more than 2 billion children a life free from polio.

**2004** – American Academy of Pediatrics' Excellence in Public Service Award to RI for its work to eradicate polio worldwide.

**2004** - World Bank President's Award for Excellence to RI, the PolioPlus program, and International PolioPlus Committee Chair William Sergeant for the partnership with the World Bank on the International Development Association's credit buy-down for eradicating polio.

**2002** – Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Gates Award for Global Health to The Rotary Foundation, recognizing Rotary's leadership and impact in the field of public health, most notably RI's top priority of eradicating polio.

**2002** – Pan American Health Organization's Public Health Hero of the Americas, recognizing Past RI President Carlos Canseco for his invaluable contributions to public health in the Americas. During Canseco's presidency, Rotary established PolioPlus and became the catalyst for eradicating polio in the Western Hemisphere.

**1998** – World Health Organization's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award to RI for its contributions to polio eradication efforts in Africa.

**1996** – Children's Vaccine Initiative's first Jenner Award to The Rotary Foundation in recognition of PolioPlus.

**1995** – UNICEF's Audrey Hepburn Child Advocate Award to RI in recognition of PolioPlus, making RI the first organization, rather than individual, to receive the honor.

**1993** - World Health Organization's Health-for-All Gold Medal, its highest honor, to RI in recognition of PolioPlus.

**1992** – U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Auxiliary Mission Support Award to RI for its worldwide support through PolioPlus of the Expanded Programme on Immunization, as well as the U.S. Rotary clubs' focus on domestic immunization projects.

**1998** – UNICEF's first International Child Survival Award to RI in recognition of PolioPlus as a significant contribution to the advancement of child survival.

**1988** – American Academy of Pediatrics' Presidential Certificate for Outstanding Service, its highest award, to RI in recognition of PolioPlus.

**1987** – Peru's Daniel Alcides Carrion Award, the country's highest honor in the field of health and medicine, to RI for its support of the nation's Expanded Program on Immunization.