

March 17, 2008

This Week's Program
Bemidji School of Tae Kwan Do
Next Week's Program
BSU Scholarship Program

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/April Programs

Mar 31 Classification Talk

April 7 TBD

April 14 BSU Athletes – Rick Goeb

Meeting Location Change – March 31st

Our club meeting will be held at the Eagles Club on Monday, March 31st. Mark your calendars.

New Paul Harris Fellows

Several Bemidji Rotarians were recognized at last week's club meeting as new Paul Harris Fellows. They include **Ryan Baer, Jeremy Fayette** and **Nancy Smith**. They received their certificates and will receive their emblem at the Paul Harris Foundation Dinner in November. Congratulations!

Fellow Rotarian Updates

Ted Gillett is now back home and doing well.

Dick Smith, a long-time visiting Rotarian from Winnipeg, Canada, passed away recently at age 90. He spent his summers in Bemidji and had 50 years of perfect Rotarian attendance.

Rotary Playhouse is Finished

This year's Rotary Playhouse is now complete thanks to the help from a local builder and the many donations of materials. It's first appearance will be at the Home, Sport and Travel Show scheduled for April 4th – 6th at the BSU John Glas Fieldhouse. Volunteers are needed to fill the 2-hour slots to sell tickets at the show. Contact **Scott Turn** for additional questions on the playhouse. Also, your help is needed to sell tickets to the public before it is given away at the Dragon Boat Festival later this summer.

Dragon Boat Festival

Plans for the third annual Dragon Boat Festival continue. Committees still need your help for it to be another successful year. Contact **Shelly Geerdes, Amy Saeland** or **Gary Johnson** and ask how you can help.

Bemidji Rotary Bylaws Updated

Though Rotary International may update the Rotary Constitution every two years, it is the local club Bylaws that our club may change when necessary. Bemidji Rotary Bylaws were updated and accepted by the membership at the March 10th meeting. They now match the procedures we have been doing for a period of time. A major change is regarding Article 11 - Leave of Absence.

Upon written application to the board setting forth good and sufficient cause, leave of absence may be granted excusing a member from attending the meetings of the club for a specified length of time. Members missing home club meetings for short periods of time are encouraged to attend at other clubs, which may allow for credit on meal charges. Members must inform the club secretary within reasonable time periods to claim credits. Member's Leave of Absence may be granted upon written request for reasons of health, for absence from community, for age 65 with 20 years of Rotary membership, for other good and sufficient reasons. Meal charges may be waived with the grant. Membership fees are not forgiven. A two-month Leave of Absence will be the minimum request considered. Up to a six month maximum period will be allowed. Meal charges are not automatically waived and must be approved by the club board. Consideration will be based upon a written request, submitted by the member to the club secretary, two weeks prior to the beginning of the absence. If the absence will be for an extended period of time, the member should request a Leave of Absence.

Many thanks go to **Martin Sathre, Jim Ghostley, Gary Johnson** and the board, who worked on this project. A complete set of the newly accepted bylaws are on the Bemidji Rotary website.