

April 28, 2008

This Week's Program
Latin America Rotary Aid (LARA) – Chris Keenan
Next Week's Program
State of Nursing in Northern Minnesota – Rhonda Bender

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 May/June Programs

- May 12** NO MEETING – Capitol for a Day at Diamond Point Park 12:00 – 2:00
- May 19 Exchange Student – Fena, Chile (Habitat for Humanity benefit lunch)
- June 2 Macedonia Literacy/Library Project – Tara Trepanier
- June 9 Paul Bunyan Playhouse – Zak Curtis

Grants

The Board approved grants for Bemidji Youth Baseball, new playground at Bemidji State Park, Headwaters School of Music and the Arts and BSU Rotaract.

Group Study Exchange (GSE)

We will host the GSE team from Sweden with a potluck at the Lake Bemidji State Park on May 8th at 7:00 p.m. Thanks go to three host families for this group. They are **Sue and Dennis Doeden, Larry and Sue Young and Wendy and Karson Otness**. Check with **Amy Saeland** for details on the potluck.

Hwy 197 Road Construction

The Bemidji Chamber of Commerce reminds us that weekly meetings will be held at the City Hall with Hwy 197 project coordinators, contractors and engineers. The schedule is Thursday at 8:30 a.m. You're invited to bring your questions and concerns.

Playhouse Tickets Available

Please pick up your tickets for this year's spectacular Rotary Playhouse. The goal is to have every member sell at least two books, and that would

make us exceed every other year's total for this key fundraiser.

If you have an opportunity, say thanks to the donors for the playhouse. (Also add **Chris Keenan's** name to that list which you will find on the tickets.)

Humanitarian Grant Submitted

Rotarian **John Reff** is involved with submitting a Humanitarian Grant to The Rotary Foundation. The grant has cleared the District level and is now on its way to Rotary International. The grant is directed to Demir Hisar, Macedonia, and will supply books, reference materials, shelving and supplies to three Primary Schools and 14 village schools. The total amount of the grant is approximately \$16,000 with Bemidji Noon Rotary contributing around \$4,120.

According to the grant application, approximately 700 children will benefit from the books. The rural community is extremely poor and suffers high employment. They are responsible for maintaining and funding their local schools. The books and reference material will be available to the community as well as the schools. A student run "Library Club" will be encouraged to promote literacy. The host club, "Bitola Rotary Club" will be involved in the installation and maintenance of the book shelves and other materials.

Training will be provided by a US Peace Corp Volunteer and the members of the Rotary Club of Bitola. Our club will be involved in fundraisers dedicated to this project. Also, we will host the US Peace Corp volunteer serving in Macedonia for a June program in Bemidji.

Rotary Project Green Up

Project Green Up will be planting 150 six to eight foot tall trees on Saturday, May 17th at 11:00 a.m. in the "Old Horse Pasture" in Nymore. The planting will be easy as holes will be pre-dug, and the planters will be able to simply lift and place, cover and water. See **Kevin Williamson** if you are able to help with this community beautification project. These trees will have immediate impact and survive for many generations.