

May 19, 2008

This Week's Program
Headwaters Dental Clinic – Warren Larson

Next Week's Program

***** NO MEETING – MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED *****

Important Dates to Remember

Rotary International Convention

June 15-18, 2008, Los Angeles, CA

Dragon Boat Festival

August 1-2, 2008

Upcoming June Programs

- May 26** NO MEETING – Memorial Day
June 2 Macedonia Literacy/Library Project – Tara Trepanier
June 9 Paul Bunyan Playhouse Season Preview – Zak Curtis, Artistic Director
June 16 Exchange Student – Fena, Chile
June 23 Culture and Religion of Indonesia – Alex Nadeson
June 30 Club Assembly – Passing the Gavel / Year in Review – **Gary Johnson/ Gayle Quistgard**

District Conference Honors

Bemidji Rotary Clubs were headline makers at this year's Rotary International District 5580 held in Dickinson, ND in May. Rotary Noontime and Sunshine Club won organizational awards for working with other groups (such as the Dragon Boat Festival in which we work with over thirty organizations) and as Best Fund Raising Club as evidenced by the club's level of volunteerism and use of funds raised.

Winners of individual awards were:

TED WILL – Distinguished Rotarian in International Service – notably for his efforts with the Bemidji Rotary Clubs in Honduras, providing medical services and infrastructure improvements in cooperation with Honduras Rotary Clubs.

CHRIS KEENAN – Rotarian of the Year Award for overall achievement in all areas of service – club service, vocational service, community service and international service. His citation notes that Chris is active with the Club's efforts in Honduras, actively recruits new Rotary members, works with the Rotary Youth Leadership Award Program, and is a founder of the Club's Rotary Playhouse project which in six years has grossed nearly \$100,000.

Chris and Ted are the only two Bemidji Rotarians to be named Rotarians of the year in the 3,350 member district which has 66 clubs in an area including all of North Dakota, northern half of Minnesota, northwestern Wisconsin and western half of Ontario, Canada.

CONGRATULATIONS, TED AND CHRIS !!!

Governor's Challenge

Congratulations to club members who completed the Rotary 101 Governor's Challenge by scoring 101 points or more through participation in a number of Rotary activities. Receiving their special Challenge pin were:

Penny Echternach
Amy Saeland
Lori Paris
Dick Haugo
Gary Johnson
Jim Ghostley
Chris Keenan

Evonne McKinzie
Nancy Smith
Dennis Vorgert
John Reff
Gayle Quistgard
Shelly Geerdes

Grants Awarded

The All Night Graduation Party and a Water Project for Buena Vista, Honduras received grants.

Keep Your Eyes on....

ROTARY IDOL – A “GINORMOUS” PROGRAM TO BE HELD DURING OUR JUNE MEETINGS.

You can vote on which contestants will become Champions. Contact **Warren Larson** to sign up as a contestant.

GSE Team Welcomed

A Rotary Group Study Exchange team from Sweden visited Bemidji on May 10th as part of their five weeks in Rotary District 5580. The Bemidji visit started with a tour of Itasca State Park and later they met their host families at a reception at Lake Bemidji State Park. Thanks go to the host families – Tom & Kathy Hruby, **Dennis & Sue Doeden**, **Larry & Sue Young**, **Dwight & Josie Fultz** and **Karson & Wendy Otness**. A special thanks goes to **Amy Saeland** for organizing the reception at the State Park.