

February 2, 2009

This Week's Program
Hunger Chair for District 5580 – Scott Turn
Next Week's Program
Evergreen House

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Goodwill Meeting - Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
– February 20-21, 2009
“Discover the Magic” – District 5580 Conference
– Minot, ND - April 23-26, 2009
Rotary International Convention –
Birmingham, England - June 21-24, 2009

UPCOMING FEB/MAR PROGRAM

Feb 16	Bemidji Public Library – Paul Ericsson
Feb 26	Classification Talk
Mar 2	Wellness – CarolAnn Schlemper
Mar 9	Macedonia Literacy Project – John Reff
Mar 16	Colon Cancer Screening – Warren Larson

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bill Howe	Feb 1
Kirk Malkowski	Feb 5
Wayne Dondelinger	Feb 8
Tom Schwartz	Feb 15
Amy Saeland	Feb 17
John Reff	Feb 20
Lori Paris	Feb 21
Ted Gillett	Feb 23
Dennis Vorgert	Feb 24
Alice Thompson	Feb 26

DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE

A block of rooms has been reserved under Bemidji Noon Rotary for the 5580 District Conference. The reservations are for April 22 - April 26 so if you plan to attend, you need to reserve the dates you are interested in before April 8th. The phone number for the Holiday Inn Conference Center is 1-800-468-9968. If you need any further information, contact **Amy Saeland**.

HUNGER CHAIR FOR DISTRICT 5580

We are proud to have one of our own club members as the chairperson for our district's Hunger Committee – **Scott Turn**.

The following is an article Scott wrote for the District 5580 newsletter – Dec 2008:

“It was proven to me a few days ago that often the best fundraising ideas are the one that are simple and direct. Sometimes, all you have to do is ask. The Ely Rotary Club, lead by Rotarian Les Bailey, had an idea to raise money to fight hunger. They collected about 40 jars and put them at local businesses throughout the town. They labeled the jars with their Rotary logo and “A Penny A Day Keeps Hunger Away” encouraging patrons to donate loose change. The club's fundraising project began October 16th and was limited to 30 days. All proceeds would go to the local food shelf. The Ely Rotary Club would match the community total by donating an equal amount to Rotary International for Hunger Relief. In those 30 days, the Ely Rotary Club raised almost \$2,000! What a lot of people don't realize is most Food Shelves buying power of that \$2,000 in cash is about \$20,000 in food. Rotary International has the same buying power and often times, more. In 30 days, the Ely Rotary Club had a \$20,000 impact on the hunger needs of their local community and another \$20,000+ in hunger relief throughout the world. What a great project!

“During the holiday season, many communities throughout our district have projects going on to help fight hunger. If your club has not thought about a hunger project, it is not too late. Actually, the months directly following the Holidays are a real critical time for the food shelves. Supplies are depleted and many families' needs continue to build. Heating costs and other living needs begin to weigh heavy on many families. Think about a club project for hunger needs in your community. I think the Ely Club's project would work for many clubs in our district.

“In the challenging economic times that we are in, we are all holding on a little tighter to the almighty dollar. However, a recent national report, personal giving in charities is actually up in the country. Never underestimate the capacity to give. Sometimes, all you have to do is ask.”