

February 9, 2009

This Week's Program
Evergreen House
Next Week's Program
Bemidji Public Library – Paul Ericsson

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 26	Classification Talk
Mar 2	Wellness – CarolAnn Schlemper
Mar 9	Macedonia Literacy Project – John Reff
Mar 16	Colon Cancer Screening – Warren Larson
Mar 23	LARA – Chris Keenan
Mar 30	Classification Talk

RIDES TO ROTARY

Several Rotarians have stepped forward to help pick up fellow Rotarians for our Monday noon meetings. If you need a ride, contact one of these volunteers before 10:30 Monday morning and they will get you to the meeting. *Thank you, Rotarians!*

Dennis Vorgert	444-5007
Evonne McKenzie	444-8484
John Reff	751-5674

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**.

FROM OUR FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER –
FEBRUARY 2009

Dear Rotary Colleagues:

As preparations begin for the new Rotary year in July 2009, we were all stunned and delighted to learn

that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has pledged an additional \$255 million to the Rotary Foundation's Polio Eradication program. Rotary's response - to increase our challenge to \$200 million - will ensure between us more than half a billion dollars shall be raised in order to END POLIO NOW.

It has been reported that Mr. Gates has lost millions during the economic meltdown that (most) of us are experiencing wherever we are in the world. But Mr. Bill Gates has responded to our economic woes as we should respond - in times of trouble don't give up on your dreams or your hopes.

Bill Gates recently said in an article in the New York Times: "The key thing is to pick a cause, whether it's crops or diseases or great high schools. Pick one and get some more in depth knowledge. If possible, travel to see the problems firsthand, then pick an organization to support with donations or volunteer time."

That organization is ROTARY.

It is also that time of the year to begin finding applicants for our Foundation's educational programs. Yes - our future alumni are out there and all we need do is go find them!

The International assembly also saw the launch of our 2009/10 theme by RI President-elect John Kenny - *The Future of Rotary Is In Your Hands*. Like all the best themes, it is one that states the obvious. It is the Rotarians and the Rotary Clubs that will determine our future and Rotarians that will carry out the service projects to help improve healthy, support education and alleviate poverty.

President-elect John has laid down the challenge to you and me and asks us to continue to work on Water, Literacy and Health and Hunger projects through which we lay the foundations for a peaceful world.

In Rotary Service,
Calum Thomson,
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RGHF Chair: 06/07
DRFC (District 1020) 2007-10
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