

March 30, 2009

This Week's Program
Classification Talk
Next Week's Program
Hope House

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**"Discover the Magic" – District 5580 Conference –
Minot, ND - April 23-26, 2009**

**Rotary International Convention –
Birmingham, England - June 21-24, 2009**

UPCOMING APR PROGRAMS

Apr 13	TBD
Apr 20	LARA – Chris Keenan
Apr 27	Classification Talk

GET WELL WISHES

Best wishes go to Rotarian **Marilyn Heltzer**, who recently had surgery on a broken arm after a fall. Hope you'll be back with us soon, **Marilyn!**

PLAYHOUSE TICKET SELLERS NEEDED

The Home, Sport and Travel Show for this year will be at the John Glas Fieldhouse the weekend of April 3rd – 5th. Volunteers are needed to sell tickets for the Rotary Playhouse at the show. Sign up sheets with 2-hour slots will be sent around at the meetings. Your help is needed to make this fundraiser a success this year. Contact **Scott Turn** if you have additional questions on the playhouse.

DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE

The deadline for registration for the District 5580 Conference is April 8th. If you plan to attend, you need to reserve your room now. The phone number for the Holiday Inn Conference Center where the conference is being held is 1-800-468-9968. If you need any further information, contact **Amy Saeland**.

DRAGON BOAT EARLY BIRD DEADLINE

Is your team registered for this year's Dragon Boat Races? The Early Bird deadline at a reduction of \$100 is April 5th. It's as easy as going to the new website at www.bemidjdragonboat.com What are you waiting for?

Contact **Gary Johnson** or **Shelly Geerdes** if you have additional questions.

MARCH IS FOOD SHELF MONTH

At the meetings on March 23rd and 30th, the basket will be passed around for the Bemidji Food Shelf. All monetary donations they receive during the month of March will be matched. Make your donation go twice as far! Also, the total amount they receive during March helps to

determine their budget for the next year. *Please be as generous!*

THE CLASSIFICATION PRINCIPLE

Virtually all membership in Rotary is based upon a "classification." Basically a classification describes the distinct and recognized business or professional service that the Rotarian renders to society.

The principle of Rotary classification is somewhat more specific and precise. In determining the classification of a Rotarian it is necessary to look at the "principal or recognized business or professional activity of the firm, company or institution" with which an active member is connected or "that which covers his principal and recognized business or professional activity."

It should be clearly understood that classifications are determined by activities or services to society rather than by the position held by a particular individual. In other words, if a person is the president of a bank, he or she is not classified as "bank president" but under the classification "banking."

It is the principal and recognized activity of a business or professional establishment or the individual's principal and recognized business or professional activity that determines the classification to be established and loaned to a qualified person. For example, the permanently employed electrical engineer, insurance adjustor, or business manager of a railroad company, mining company, manufacturing concern, hospital, clinic, etc. may be considered for membership as a representative of the particular work he or she may be doing personally or as a representative of the firm, company or institution for which the professional service is being done.

The classification principle also permits businesses and industries to be separated into distinct functions such as manufacturing, distributing, retailing and servicing. Classifications may also be specified as distinct and independent divisions of a large corporation or university within the club's territory, such as a school of business or a school of engineering.

The classification principle is a necessary concept in assuring that each Rotary club represents a cross section of the businesses and professional service of the community.

In 1995 the Council on Legislation permitted the admission of retired people who had never been in Rotary but would have been qualified. These individuals can be admitted as past service members and are the only Rotarians without a current or former classification.