April 20, 2009

This Week's Program
Latin America Rotary Aid (LARA) – Chris Keenan
Next Week's Program
Adventures in Traveling – Carol Eberhardt

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

Dragon Boat Festival - July 30-Aug 1
Bemidji Waterfront

UPCOMING MAY PROGRAMS

May 4	ODC CEO – Peter Lavalier
May 11	The Rotary Foundation – Nancy Smith
May 18	Habitat for Humanity Luncheon

PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP
James Wagner, Surgeon with Lake Region Bone and Joint – Proposed by Ted Will

**** Paul Harris STIMULUS PACKAGE ****
Your Rotary board is pleased to announce a once in a lifetime special promotion to help you on your journey to your next $1,000 Paul Harris level. For every $25 you contribute to The Rotary Foundation between now and June 1st, the board will award $75 worth of points in your name. The statement you just received indicates your Paul Harris Recognition Amount and your Paul Harris Recognition Points, if available. More information will come.

MACEDONIA PROJECT COMPLETED
President Elect John Reff reports that the humanitarian project for Demir Hisar, Macedonia has been completed. In April of 2008, John was involved with submitting a Humanitarian Grant to the Rotary Foundation. The grant was directed to supplying books, reference materials, shelving and supplies to three Primary Schools and 14 village schools. The total amount of the grant was approximately $16,000 with Bemidji Noon Rotary contributing around $4,120.

Approximately 700 children will benefit from the books. The rural community, which is responsible for maintaining and funding their local schools, is extremely poor and suffers high unemployment. The books and reference material will be available to the community as well as the schools, and The Bitola Rotary Club was involved in the installation and maintenance of bookshelves and other materials.

Peace Corp Volunteer Tara Trepanier who helped coordinate this project is now assigned to another country, but will return to Macedonia for the project completion celebration. In an upcoming meeting Tara will speak to our club about the project. She writes:
"I'm not sure if you have been in contact with the Rotary Club Bitola, Macedonia since the ball really got rolling in the last couple months, but I'm very excited to report that the ribbon cutting will take place on Monday (April 13). I left Macedonia at the end of January and have been interning at the US Embassy in Prague since then, but am returning to Macedonia for the holiday weekend for the occasion of the project completion party.
"I promise to take lots of pictures and report back to you. I'll be back in Bemidji as of May 1 and depending on where work and/or school take me will be in the area for the summer.
"I'm so proud of the Bitola Rotary Club and the Demir Hisar Primary School for completing this project without me. I think it's a great signal of just how sustainable the project really is. As for the Bemidji Rotary Club, I cannot begin to thank you enough for sticking with me and this project and believing me when I said it was still moving forward (just really really slowly). It is really an opportunity in a lifetime to have your own community behind while you try to assist another community so far away. Thank you so much.
"If there is any written text you'd like me to read on the Bemidji Rotary's behalf I'd be happy to (and I'll get it translated in advance). Sorry I didn't contact you sooner, Prague has been a busy place this last month – President Obama was here last week. Now, I'm very excited to go home to Macedonia, then next month come home to Bemidji.
"I really can't thank you enough."

BEMIDJI LIONS ANNOUNCE 70TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS
The local Bemidji Lions Club was chartered on April 25, 1939, and members are celebrating their seventy years of service with these events:

Celebration Dinner - The Community is invited on April 26, 5:30 Social Hour; 6:30 dinner at the Eagles Club. Cost is $12.00 each. Proceeds will go to a project for the eradication of Diabetes.

Annual Pancake Day - May 5 at the American Legion Club Room. Cost is $5.00 each. Proceeds will go to community projects.

All Rotarians are cordially invited to attend and join in the celebration.