

May 18, 2009

This Week's Program
Habitat for Humanity Luncheon
Next Week's Program
MEMORIAL DAY – NO MEETING

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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

**Dragon Boat Festival - July 30-Aug 1
Bemidji Waterfront**

UPCOMING MAY/JUNE PROGRAMS

June 1	Rotary's Got Talent
June 8	RGT & Paul Bunyan Playhouse
June 15	Rotary's Got Talent
June 22	Rotary's Got Talent

PADDLERS NEEDED

Planning for the 4th annual Rotary Dragon Boat Festival is underway and WE NEED YOU!!! You can help our club win the Civic Cup at this year's event by signing up to be a paddler. Last year we broke into the ranks of the top 10, and we can expect even better results this year with your help. See **Jordan Hickman** to sign up for the big event.

ROTARY'S GOT TALENT

Do you sing? Do you dance? Do you recite poetry? Do you tell jokes? Here's your chance to display your talent (or even your lack of same). Rotary's Got Talent Program is coming in June, and we need 12 contestants to make this work. Any talent you are willing to share, please sign up with **Warren Larson**.

ROTARY PLAYHOUSE

Please turn in your sold books of Rotary Playhouse tickets to **Amy Saeland** to help with the accounting process. If you have not yet picked up your tickets, they are available weekly at the Registration Table before each meeting. Members are asked to sell a minimum of two books (a total of twenty tickets). Our goal is to surpass our sales from last year and continue funding important community projects that have relied on our help in the past. Contact **Scott Turn** for questions on the Playhouse.

THANKS TO THE CLEAN-UP CREW

Thanks to all those civic minded Rotarians who lent a hand at the recent waterfront cleanup project.

ROTARY AROUND THE WORLD

USA - Sylvia Whitlock, the first female Rotary club president, rode on a Rotarian-sponsored Rose Parade float on January 1st to celebrate 20 years of women in Rotary. Six past and present female district governors appeared with Whitlock in the parade, which takes place annually in Pasadena, Calif., and attracts millions of TV viewers. The Rotary Club of Los Angeles and District 5289 hosted an event in December honoring the women.

CANADA – Cars across the country are boosting Rotary's drive to eradicate polio. The Rotary Club of Washago and Area-Centennial, Ont., is selling car magnets with the end Polio Now logo to raise money toward Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge. The club's original goal was to sell a C\$2 magnet to every Rotarian in Canada, but word has spread, and orders have come in from Europe and the United States as well.

Order one at www.washagorotary.ca.

IRAQ – A women's center in Karakush had a 150-person waiting list for training on its two sewing machines. When U.S. Army Reserve Major Wil Kline visited the facility while stationed in Iraq, he saw a way to help. After Kline, a member of the Rotary Club of Huntington, Ind., made a call back home, his club donated 300 pounds of fabric and other supplies, and several community groups pitched in with an additional 400 pounds. A \$5,000 grant from the U.S. State Department funded the purchase of eight new sewing machines. The items were delivered in September, and the center will now be able to serve more than 500 women.

FRANCE – More than 300 people gathered in Is-sur-Tille in November to unveil a stone memorial honoring U.S. soldiers who fought in France during World War I. A project of the Rotary Club of Dijon-Toison d'Or, the monument incorporates a sound system that plays a four-minute narration in English and French about the U.S. Army camp and supply depot that stood in the town. More than two million men and 4 million tons of supplies passed through the camp between 1917 and 1920.