

November 30, 2009

This Week's Program
Classification Talk – Steve Hostetter
Next Week's Program
Red Lake Fisheries – Pat Brown

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION –

June 20-23, 2010 **Montreal, Quebec**

DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE –

May 13-16, 2010 **Winnipeg, Canada**

UPCOMING DEC PROGRAMS

Dec 14	BHS Choir – at Eagles Club
Dec 21	Rotary Social
Dec 28	Club Assembly - Elections

STUDENTS AT WORK

“The Bemidji High School Interact Club (sponsored by the Rotary Sunrise Club) looked far away for a project – donations to fund wheelchairs for people with disabilities in developing countries who can't afford to buy the equipment themselves. The students asked teachers equipped with collection jars to use wheelchairs for as long as it took to collect \$60 in donations.

“Teachers volunteered for the project, as each \$60 would fund one wheelchair in a developing country. The goal is Free Wheelchair Mission is to distribute 400,000 wheelchairs in more than 70 countries. Bemidji High School students aim to add 15 wheelchairs to that count.”
Excerpt from the Bemidji Pioneer, Nov 24, 2009

ABOUT INTERACT

Interact, a Rotary-sponsored youth service club, was launched by the RI Board of Directors in 1962. The first Interact club was established by the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Florida, USA. Interact clubs provide opportunities for boys and girls of secondary school age to work together in a world fellowship of service and international understanding. The term “Interact” is derived from “inter,” for international, and “act,” for action. Every Interact club must be sponsored and supervised by a Rotary club and must plan annual projects of service to its school, community and in the world.

Today there are more than 6,000 Interact clubs with 138,500 members in 96 countries. Interactors develop skills in leadership and attain practical experience in conducting service projects, thereby learning the satisfaction that comes from serving others. A major goal of Interact is to provide opportunities for young people to create greater understanding and goodwill with youth throughout the world.

GSE BLOG: <http://gsejapan2009.blogspot.com>.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS

Thanks go to **Jim Hess** who has volunteered to chair Rotary's annual bell ringing for the Salvation Army located inside the Mall. Sign up sheets for this program to be scheduled in December will be circulated, or you can contact **Jim**.

BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in service on the Board of Directors for our club, contact **Gayle Quistgard**. An ad hoc group of former club presidents is currently reviewing potential candidates.

HONDURAS PROJECT

Chris Keenan recently described numerous projects that will involve Rotarians in the upcoming trip to Honduras in February. Water projects, school projects, and roof repairs are all in the plans. Those who have made the trip in the past seem to agree that it is a life changing experience. If you are interested, don't delay. Contact **Amy Saeland** for details.

GRANT CHANGES

George Welte recently announced a process change in Rotary grants. Instead of monthly consideration, grants applications will be reviewed semi-annually. The next funding cycle requires grant applications from community organizations to be submitted in February with awards being made in March. Instructions and a grant application form are available on the Rotary website, www.bemidjirotary.org.

UNITED WAY AWARD

Our Rotary Club recently received a President's Award from the United Way of Bemidji. The award is given to businesses and corporations with contributions of \$1,000 or more. The United Way recently revealed the campaign total to date of \$406,703 and recognized the outstanding achievements that went into the 2009 campaign. Contributions will be accepted through December 31st at United Way, PO Box 27, Bemidji, MN 56619 or visit www.liveunitedbemidji.org to give online. All contributions will be receipted for tax purposes.

MEETING CANCELLATION POLICY

Reminder: we will not have a meeting if Bemidji School Dist #31 cancels school on account of bad weather on a Rotary meeting day.