

December 21, 2009

This Week's Program
Rotary Social
Next Week's Program
Club Assembly - Elections

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE –

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

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION –

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

UPCOMING JAN PROGRAMS

Jan 4	Web Mapping – Jane Mueller, GIS Director, E911 Coordinator, Belt. Co.
Jan 11	Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship Program – Robert McLean
Jan 18	Bemidji Gymnastics Club – Pam Gregg
Jan 25	Classification Talk

RECENT ROTARIAN VISITOR

Dan Eikenberry, Walker

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Gary Johnson is coordinating an effort to have the District 5580 Conference in 2012 held in Bemidji. This would be a joint effort with our club cooperating with clubs in Bagley, Fosston, BSU Rotaract, Sunrise Rotary and Interact. With the new Bemidji Regional Event Center operational it would be an ideal set-up. Good luck, **Gary!**

SNAPSHOT OF ROTARY HISTORY

Thirty years ago this year, The Rotary Foundation funded the first Health, Hunger and Humanity Grant project: to immunize six million children in the Philippines against polio. James, L. Bomar Jr., then the RI president, signed an agreement with the country's government to begin the immunizations, and on 29 September 1979, he administered the first drops of vaccine to a Philippine child. The US\$760,000 effort set the stage for Rotary's decades-long commitment to the eradication of polio.

NEXT ROTARY CONVENTIONS

2010 – Montreal, Canada

2011 – New Orleans, United States

Tentative convention sites

2012 – Bangkok, Thailand

2013 – Lisbon, Portugal

2014 – Sydney, Australia

MONTREAL CONVENTION – AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Montréal, Québec, Canada, 20-23 June will host the 2010 Rotary International Convention.

Sophisticated yet friendly, Montréal offers an ideal setting for Rotarians to gather at the 2010 RI Convention. More than 80 nationalities and ethnic groups reside in Montréal. In addition, it is also the largest francophone city outside of Paris, making it the most bilingual metropolis in North America.

Register early now for “An International Experience” and to receive the best rates and accommodations.

ROTARY AROUND THE WORLD

NAMIBIA – Health care volunteers working in areas of Namibia without ambulance service used to transport people to medical clinics on luggage racks mounted on the back of bicycles. But the Rotary clubs of Port Moody and Vancouver Chinatown, B.C., Canada, and Windhoek, Namibia, worked with several other organizations to put more than 70 bicycle ambulances into operation. Featuring mountain bike wheels, a removable stretcher, a bag for basic medical supplies, and a sun shade, they've been used to convey patients with conditions ranging from scorpion stings to HIV/AIDS-related illnesses. The bikes are being distributed through the Bicycling Empowerment Network Namibia, a nongovernmental organization. The project was supported by a US\$15,000 Matching Grant from the Rotary Foundation.

MALAYSIA – To mark World Kidney Day in March, the Rotary Club of Kuala Kangsar worked with the National Kidney Foundation of Malaysia and Sungai Siput Hospital to provide people with free kidney, diabetes, and blood pressure screenings on a mobile screening bus. Rotarian volunteers registered participants and offered information about the early detection and prevention of kidney problems. [About 10% of all adults – more than 500 million people worldwide – have some form of kidney damage. More than 1.5 million are kept alive through dialysis or a kidney transplant.]