

December 28, 2009

This Week's Program
Club Assembly - Elections
Next Week's Program
Web Mapping – Jane Mueller, GIS Director

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE –

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

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION –

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

UPCOMING JAN/FEB PROGRAMS

Jan 11	Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship Program – Robert McLean
Jan 18	Bemidji Gymnastics Club – Pam Gregg
Jan 25	Classification Talk
Feb 1	Friends of the Library – Sharon Giesen

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

Scott Weinzierl, Fieldstone Financial Group

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy goes to Rotarian Gail Quistgard, whose mother recently passed away.

RECENT ROTARIAN VISITOR

Sue Tomte, Park Rapids

PLAYHOUSE

A \$1,000 check for the Northwest Tech Foundation was recently presented to Northwest Tech students who built the 2009 Rotary Playhouse. They will build the 2010 Playhouse, which will be awarded during next summer's Dragon Boat Festival.

DECEMBER – FAMILY MONTH

The idea of the family of Rotary is a simple one, and one that we celebrate every December during Family Month. Every Rotarian is part of the Rotary family – but our family is much larger than just our 1.2 million members. The family of Rotary includes everyone of the men, women, and children who are involved in our work: the spouses and children of our members, our Rotary Foundation program participants and alumni, and all of those who are part of our programs, in the tens of thousands of Rotary communities around the world.

The youngest generation of the Rotary family is composed of our Rotaract clubs and Interact clubs, the participants in our Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program, our Ambassadorial Scholars, and our more than 8,000 Rotary Youth Exchange students every year. As in any family, our youth are our brightest promise for the

future. Of course, it is my sincere wish that many of these young people go on to become Rotarians in good time. But Rotary is a part of them even today – and they are a part of us....

Every club should strive to achieve a balanced interaction between Rotarians and their families – and the family of Rotary. Only by working together, as a family; can we ensure that the Rotary of today grows into an even stronger Rotary of tomorrow.

John Kenny, President, Rotary International

ROTARY AROUND THE WORLD

CANADA – The Rotary clubs of North Renfrew (Deep River), Pembroke, and Petawawa, Ont., are supporting Canadian troops who are working with the aid to people of Afghanistan. Through their Auctions for Afghanistan fundraiser, the clubs are auctioning off donated items worth C\$20 or more on eBay and at local events, with a goal of raising \$50,000 in 2009. (The project, launched in May, will continue until Canadian troops end their Afghan mission in 2011.) The money will be given to the Afghanistan Assistance Trust Fund, which the Canadian government's Afghanistan Challenge, which provides grants that will benefit a school construction projected led by the Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Man.

[Between 1996 and 2008, the number of schools in Afghanistan increased from about 650 to about 9,500. The ratio of girls to boys in secondary schools is one to three or four.]

AUSTRALIA – Rotary Youth Exchange students staying in District 9600 (part of Australia; Papua New Guinea; Solomon Islands) cooked up a scheme to raise funds for their host community and Rotary. The students wrote and produced a cookbook containing recipes for their favorite meals from their home countries and sold it at the 2009 district conference. They also held a silent auction, offering prepared meals and their cooking services up for bids. With the money they raised, the students were able to fund a ShelterBox.

Wishing you and your family a New Year of joyful blessings.