

January 25, 2010

This Week's Program
Lake Bemidji Pond Hockey Classic – Bret & Derek Leach
Next Week's Program
Celebrate Kindness – Warren Larson

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE –

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

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION –

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

UPCOMING FEB/MAR PROGRAMS

Feb 8	Feed My Starving Children Mobile Packet Event– Steve Hostetter
Feb 15	Friends of the Library – Sharon Giesen
Feb 22	Classification Talk
Mar 1	TBD

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the 33 Rotarians with perfect attendance in December and especially to **Charlie Ward**, the winner of a Bemidji Rotary cap.

GSE TEAM FROM JAPAN

Bemidji will be a hub for the inbound GSE Team from Japan. They will be staying in Bemidji from April 22 through April 30. Thank you to the Rotarians who volunteered as hosts for the Japanese team. We look forward to meeting these young professionals, who are all very nice and do speak some English, most very well. Contact **John Reff**, **Gary Johnson** or **Evonne McKinzie** if you want to help in the activities planned for our visitors.

MEETING VENUE SEARCH

Always concerned about our expenses, the board is in the process of seeking other meeting location possibilities. RFP's (Requests for Proposal) will be available to our members who can help in the search. Contact **Jordan Hickman** for more information.

HELP FOR HAITI

As you know, the situation in Haiti, though improving, is still very disparate for the poor people living there. Through Rotary, we have a way to help. Rotary endorsed Shelter Boxes are available to be sent to Haiti right away. They will provide shelter, warmth and dignity to the people affected by the disaster.

At the next two club meetings we will be seeking donations from our membership. Your Board of

Directors has agreed to match all funds donated to a max of \$1000.00. If we succeed, we will be able to supply two boxes for the relief effort. Any funds donated beyond that amount will also be sent for the relief effort.

One of the best parts of your donation is that Rotary will send 100% of the funds to Shelter Box.

So, bring you check book with you to Monday's meeting and give generously.

Check out their web site...shelterbox.org.... for more details.

Thank you all very much,
John Reff

DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE

On May 13 – 16, 2010 the District 5580 conference will be held in Winnipeg, Canada. The board has earmarked \$770 to encourage more of our members to attend this conference. The cost of the registration and the banquet dinner (\$110) would be reimbursed with receipts turned in to **Dennis Vorgert**.

You will have the great opportunity to not only meet Rotarians from other clubs in our district, but also hear Rotary International President, **John Kenny**. Make you lodging arrangements as soon as possible; if you have questions, contact **Amy Saeland**. At a cost of around \$80, a bus from Brainerd will pick up Bemidji Rotarians attending the conference. Contact **John Reff** for more information on the bus. Remember that U.S. residents will need a valid passport. For more information on the conference, check out our website: www.bemidjirotary.com.

DRAGON BOAT SPONSORS

Even though the Dragon Boat Festival is 8 months away, the committee is already working hard to make this year another success. They are looking for more major sponsors for the festival. Radio, newspapers, television – what an excellent way to enhance your marketing for this year! Contact **Amy Saeland**, **Gary Johnson** or **Shelly Geerdes** if you are interested in being a major sponsor.