

March 8, 2010

This Week's Program
Terry Nielsen Travels
Next Week's Program
Outbound GSE Team to Japan

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE –

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

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION –

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

UPCOMING MAR/APR PROGRAMS

Mar 22	Haiti – Abby Nelson
Mar 29	Classification Talk
Apr 5	Baseball Opener – Meeting at Boys & Girls Club
Apr 12	ODC – Marcy LaCroix

MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH MEETING CHANGES:

*** **MARCH 15th** - moved **BACK TO NOON** at *Holiday Inn Express* to hear the presentation by the GSE Outbound team to Japan.

*** **APRIL 5th** - will be held at the **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB** at our regular time for our celebration of the baseball opener.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

On March 4th the board voted to approve the following membership changes:

NEW MEMBER TRANSFER – Denelle Cauble

LEAVE OF ABSENCE – Jill Naylor-Yarger & Carol Eberhardt

RESIGNATION – Linda Eickman

RULE OF 85 – William Howe

WEEKLY DRAWING - NEW GAME

Since our weekly drawing has lost interest recently, on March 15th we will start a new game. Every Rotarian will have a chance to buy a ticket at \$1 each. Two tickets will be drawn each week and the winners of those tickets will pick a card from a deck of cards. Whoever draws the Ace of Hearts will win half of the accumulative pot. The club keeps the other half of the pot. The pot will continue to grow until the Ace of Hearts is drawn. After a winner is chosen, we'll start over again and work toward getting the next winner. **President John** will answer questions at today's meeting.

DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE

The District 5580 conference held in Winnipeg, Canada on May 13-16 is approaching quickly. 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**. Make your lodging arrangements as soon as possible; if you have questions, contact **Amy Saeland**. Contact **John Reff** for more information on the bus from Brainerd coming though Bemidji to the conference. Remember that U.S. residents will need a valid passport. For more information on the conference, check out our website: www.bemidj Rotary.com.

ROTARY RESURGES AFTER FALL OF IRON CURTAIN

Rotary districts 5890 (Texas, USA) and 1880 (Germany) hosted a four-day peace conference in Leipzig, Germany, in October to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The attendees – including members of a Group Study Exchange (GSE) team from Houston and a Rotary Friendship Exchange group – took part in a candlelight vigil and dedicated a stained-glass window at St Thomas Church, where Johann Sebastian Bach served as choirmaster in the early 18th century.

In the 1980s, District 5890 initiated exchanges with people in communist-controlled Europe, including GSEs between Houston and Leipzig, which led to a sister city relationship. Said Frank Rohrwacher, who participated in the first GSE team from Leipzig in 1991 and went on to become a Rotarian and a president of the Rotary Club of Leipzig: "I am so thankful for those days in the autumn of 20 years ago, which changed our life completely." *Arnold R. Grahl*

NEXT BOARD MEETING: March 18th, 7:15 a.m., at Lueken's North Meeting room. Rotarians are welcome guests.