

April 19, 2010

This Week's Program
Meritcare Merger – Charles Gulsvig
Next Week's Program
Inbound Japanese GSE Team

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE –

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

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION –

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

UPCOMING MAY PROGRAMS

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| May 3 | Rotary Exchange Student – Fran Rose
Ilejos, Chili – Kirsten Addison |
| May 10 | Rotary Exchange Student – Quentin
Delextrat, France – Kirsten Addison |
| May 17 | Habitat for Humanity – Judy Reese |
| May 24 | Bemidji Food Shelf – Carolyn
Hegland |
| May 31 | MEMORIAL DAY – NO ROTARY |

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Paul Diehl, Diehl Project Management, proposed by
Gary Johnson.

PLAYHOUSE SALE KICKS OFF!

Ready..Set..Go. Tickets for the 2010 Playhouse Sale went on sale at the Home, Sport & Travel Show on April 16th. Today is the day to pick up your tickets, start connecting with your previous customers and cultivating some new ones. The Playhouse Sale is one of our major fundraisers, and with every member's support, we can make it a big success! Thanks to **Scott Turn** for chairing this important Rotary project.

LAST DAY FOR DRAGON BOAT EARLY REGISTRATION

Teams wanting to participate in the 2010 Lake Bemidji Dragon Boat Festival August 5-7 have until the early registration deadline of TODAY, Monday, April 19th, to save \$100. To register your business or organization for the festival, sponsored by the Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce and Bemidji Rotary Club, visit www.bemidjdragonboat.com or check with **Gary Johnson**, festival co-chairman.

GSE 2010 JAPAN EVENTS

Rotarians are cordially invited to join our GSE guests for the following events:

THURSDAY, APRIL 22nd – Welcome Reception (Potluck) at the Lake Bemidji State Park – 6:00 p.m. (**Amy Saeland** is organizing this event, but needs assistance with coordination.) Dinner will be a classic walleye fish fry. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please RSVP by Wednesday April 21st with a reply to **Amy Saeland** 368-6328. A limited number of parking permits will be available for guests, so please RSVP.

MONDAY, APRIL 26TH – Dinner at area restaurant with Bemidji GSE Alumni – 6:00 p.m. (RSVP **Gary Johnson** by April 19th.)

GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE (GSE)

One of the most popular and rewarding programs of the Rotary Foundation is Group Study Exchange. Since the first exchange between districts in California and Japan in 1965, the program has provided educational experiences for about 35,000 business and professional men and women who have served on about 6,500 teams. The GSE program pairs Rotary districts to send and receive study teams. Since 1965, almost US\$59 million has been allocated by The Rotary Foundation for Group Study Exchange grants.

One of the attractive features of GSE is the opportunity for the visiting team members to meet, talk and live with Rotarians and their families in a warm spirit of friendship and hospitality. Although the original Group Study Exchanges were male only, in recent years teams have included both men and women.

In addition to learning about another country through visits to farms, schools, industrial plants, professional offices and governmental establishments, the GSE teams serve as ambassadors of goodwill. They interpret their home nation to host Rotarians and others in the communities they visit. In recent years, teams of a single vocation or cultural group have been exchanged. Some GSE teams help create humanitarian projects between their countries.

Truly, the Group Study Exchange program has provided Rotarians with one of its most enjoyable, practical and meaningful ways to promote world understanding.