



The Backwash



The Rotary Club of Edmonds

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Editor: Kirk Greiner
If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

Rotary District 5030 Conference

by Greiner, Kirk

The annual District Conference will be held May 16th - 18th in Kennewick, WA. Click >>[HERE](#)<< to learn more and to register.

Ambassadorial Scholar Monika

by Greiner, Kirk



Monica, our Ambassadorial Scholar sends her Christmas greeting:

Happy holidays from Budapest Hungary! It was great to make a presentation to your club last August. I've settled into a fabulous full-time job with a media company and so I'm working lots. It's been great so far (3 mo, & counting), but doesn't beat my year as an Ambassadorial Scholar - truly the best year of my life. Thanks again Rotary!! I hope you all have a wonderful 2008 & I'll be in touch (The photo is with my parents & sister. I'm on the right) Best regards, Monica

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

by Pauline Gubbels

[Editors note - This is a must attend workshop if you want to have a say in the direction which your club will take in the next five years.]

All club members are asked to participate in the Rotary Club of Edmonds' Strategic Planning Workshop to be held on Saturday, January 26, 2008 at the Meadowdale Community Clubhouse located at 6809 N Meadowdale Road. The workshop will begin at 8:00 am sharp, so please come early. Parking is available at the clubhouse or across the road at the Meadowdale Play Fields. District 5030 is providing a Facilitating Team who will lead the workshop.

A clear Vision and Mission for the club will be developed. Major goals will evolve as the group works through the strategic planning process. This is a great opportunity for each member to be heard and to help design the future for our club. Upon arrival, coffee and a continental breakfast will be available (free!). After the workshop, which will end at 12 noon, there will be a pot luck lunch for those who wish to stay and visit.

If you have any questions about this workshop, please contact Pauline Gubbels at 425-745-4651. If you wish to contribute to the pot luck lunch, contact Carol Kinney at 425-775-4550. And remember, you are an important member of our club. Your participation will be valued.

New Members

by Kirk Greiner

Future Speakers

Jan 22 2008
Nick Brossoit, Superintendent ESC #15
"School construction update"

Jan 29 2008
Dan Day, Dir Insight Schools of Washington
"Alternative High School Programs"

Feb 5 2008
Shari Ramm
"Kids First Village, Viet Nam"

Feb 12 2008
TBA

Feb 19 2008
Boy Scout Troop 301
"This is the troop we have sponsored for 10 years"

Feb 26 2008
Belete Gebre
"His school construction project Ethiopia"

Upcoming Events

Club Board Meeting
Feb 6 2008

News

[Edmonds Waterfront Festival](#)

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The Club welcomes the following new members.

Nataliya Vladimirovna Semez - Joined Jan 8, 2008. Nataliya works in management at The Max Foundation in Edmonds. She has one child. Her sponsor was Doug Purcell.

Joel Phillipps - Joined Dec 4, 2007. Joel is a Community Banker with Shoreline Bank. He is married to Akiko. They have no children. His sponsor was David Zhou.

Meenakshi Tomar - Joined Oct 16, 2007. Meenakshi is a dentist at Edmonds Bay Dental. She has two children. Her sponsor was Jeffery Martin.

The Gambia Water and Vegetable Garden Project

by Lamin Manneh

The Gambia, the smallest in Africa, sustains about a million and a half people in a long, very thin area of land, totally surrounded by much larger Senegal. The Gambia's borders are never more than fifteen miles away from its river, and yet access to adequate water and irrigation is a constant battle for the 85% of the population who farm the land.

Salt from the river ruins crops and soil fertility is low. Most of Gambia's GDP comes from agriculture, not tourism. 71% of the agricultural workers are women, producing 99% of upland rice. They do it without any mechanization.

Statistics prove half the rural population cannot maintain an adequate diet. The three months when the rain does fall, June-September are in fact the hungriest. Women struggle to grow the rice and also vegetables. Men concentrate on groundnut production, and millet growing, sheep and goat production. By August people's grain stores are often empty; food is generally scarce and expensive. Almost half of Gambia's annual food requirement is imported, and beyond the reach of the poor.

I reflected on these statistics as I live in Gambia for 25 years and my mother worked in vegetable garden and rice fields to feed the entire family and pay my school fees. She was able to be an independent and successful woman through hard work in the farms. She now runs her own small business with my sister.

In their ardent strive to break the cycle of dependency (women depending entirely on their husbands for basic necessities of life), reduce poverty and enhance food security, 700 women from Alkali Kunda, Kachang and Illiassa, in the upper Badibou District of The Gambia, have developed the idea of agricultural enterprise such as vegetable production with little help from the Methodist Agricultural Mission. They have completed digging three 30 feet wells and erected a fence against wandering animals using local conventional materials in a 9-hectare vegetable garden.

These women are unable to meet their productivity target and attain food security due to acute shortage of water. They usually line in long cues and laboriously fetch muddy water from the 3 wells to water their fruits and vegetables. They don't have any pumping or sprinkler devices.

The Edmonds Rotary Club (lunch club) recently approved \$2000.00 to help alleviate the plight of these women by providing 15 additional wells in the garden. The project is seeking another \$3000.00 from

interested Rotary clubs(who would like to partner with Edmonds) or individual Rotarians in order to apply for \$20,000.00 matching grant from the international Rotary Foundation.

A successful funding and implementation of this project will go a long way in alleviating poverty, improve the nutritional status of women and children, and increase household income. This is the way forward in the empowerment of rural women and the girl child.

If you would like to help raise the much needed \$3000.00 or want to know more about this project or provide support in anyway, feel free to contact Lamin Manneh at laminm@provail.org . or 206 604 8473

[Editors note: Individuals who wish to make tax deductible contributions to assist this project may make them through the Edmonds Rotary Foundation by designating their contribution for the "Gambia Project". The money will be routed to the Rotary Club of Banjul to assist with this project.]

Club & Foundation Presidents Discuss Communication

by Kirk Greiner

Staser Holcomb and Kirk Greiner met to discuss how the Club and Foundation functions could be better coordinated. Several recent events indicated that there is still a misunderstanding about how the Foundation operates, the restrictions imposed on it by IRS regulations and its relations with the Club. Staser, who was on the board of a charity composed of retired military aviators, suggested that the two boards hold joint meetings perhaps every six months. This was how the fliers' charity worked and maintained excellent communications and understanding.

Pauline Gubbels had previous indicated that her club in Albuquerque had similar problems and they solved them by making the President of the Foundation a member of the Club Board.

Staser and Kirk agreed that they would hold joint meetings whenever needed and at least once every six months. The two at large members of the Foundation Board would not have voting privileges or be members of the Club Board and Club Board members would not be members of the Foundation Board except as currently provided by the Foundation's bylaws (President elect, President and Treasurer of the Club Board are ex-officio members of the Foundation's Board).

Edmonds Rotary Foundation

by Kirk Greiner

Our Foundation recently received contributions from two of our members. Dave Zhou presented a check for \$500 from Allstate Insurance Foundation to the Foundation's Endowment Fund and Elizabeth Crouch made a significant contribution to the Foundation's general fund. On behalf of our members, "Thanks"!!

Club News - Web Site Annex

by Kirk Greiner

If you are interested in what your directors are doing, our finances, what the Foundation is doing or its finances, or more, go to the Club's web site, log on and you will find yourself in the Admin tab (the tabs are on the top bar). In the upper left of the screen is a yellow box. Click on "View Club Documents" at the bottom of the yellow frame. In the next screen, then click of "Click Here to View Documents." You are now in the Annex section which contains lots of Club and Foundation

information - Board Minute, Treasurer's Reports, back issues of the Backwash, Club History and more.

Having trouble with the web site. Call Kirk - 425-640-3048.

Q & A Column

by Kirk Greiner

Do you have a question about the web site, our Foundation, or Rotary, send the editor an email at kirk@maritimeconsultant.com and we will publish it and an answer in the next issue of our newsletter, the **BACKWASH**.