

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

11-14-2016 Meeting Minutes

President Nadia Glucksberg opened the meeting by asking for introductions of attendees and reviewed ongoing chapter activities and news, including:

The originally scheduled presentation by Habitat for Humanity was cancelled at the last minute due to schedule conflicts.

HOLIDAY SPIRITS –As the result of a discussion following the EWB chapter meeting, we have decided to support a local Iraqi refugee family for this holiday season. The Kadhim family has immigrated to Portland. The father is a civil engineer, the mother is a math professor, and they have triplets born in August 2014. EWB chapter funds will not be used, but anyone wishing to support our efforts can donate cash or items for the family’s “wish/needs list”. The list will be available in a separate email to our distribution list, along with info about where to send donations or deliver items. Kathy Hillman Reed is spearheading the project (khillmanreed@gmail.com). Gifts and donations will be taken through the next chapter meeting on Dec. 12.

This is a great way for our chapter members and attendees to continue our outreach! We’re also looking forward to Mr. Kadhim presenting to our chapter, perhaps in the spring.

DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA There is still much unrest in Ethiopia. The State Department has a travel ban so all trips are on hold. We are ready to go as soon as we can, but we are also very concerned for our friends living there, too. TCP is pushing forward with in-country help with a goal of opening for 247 students this September. If you want to travel (when we can), get involved, or just be on the team email distribution list, please contact Nadia (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com) or Kevin (KRuss@haleyaldrich.com). Project team meetings occur separately from chapter meetings and all welcome.

FUNDRAISING Portland Uncorked! is gearing up. We are considering holding the event at the Custom House hall in Portland on Thursday, March 2, 2017. We need to solicit silent auction items and corporate sponsorship - more details forthcoming. If you’re interested in helping with planning and producing Portland Uncorked!, please contact Kathy Hillman Reed (khillmanreed@gmail.com).

STEM OUTREACH Local school outreach has already started as we continue to present some of our work. Anyone interested, please let us know – next presentation is scheduled for November 18th in Cumberland at Greeley Middle School. You do not have to be involved with a travel team to teach middle school kids. It’s a blast, we have programs already set up, and welcome all new ideas. The last presentation at King Middle school was very well received – with huge thanks to Lars for helping out.

HAITI BRIDGE PROJECT – Still need people to help Dave Murphy with the bridge reconstruction project in Haiti. We need travel dates from Dave to provide to anyone who may be able to travel.

NEW PROJECTS We are actively seeking a new water project to adopt. The key criteria is the strength and organization of the NGO. If you have ideas or want to lead a project, let us know. Please contact Nadia Glucksberg (NGLucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).

November Presentation

Jim Landau, a structural engineer and member of the Debre Birhan project team, graciously agreed to present an update on the school design status, including design changes. He provided an overview of the current school building design (for building #1) and proposed design changes for additional school building on the site. There was great discussion about the pros and cons of the current and proposed design especially relative to seismic requirements and building materials.

Next steps include providing answers to Angelique's questions (TCP) so she can talk to local officials in Debre Birhan to move forward. We will provide a design recommendation to Angelique in January. It is unclear whether we need to go before the EWB TAC again...to be determined.

Other Business

Anyone needing PDH certificates should see or contact Stan Reed (sreed001@maine.rr.com).

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the event room at the Sea Dog Brew Pub, 125 Western Avenue, South Portland, ME. NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Secretary