

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

10-18-2016 Meeting Minutes

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

DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA As you know, all of our planned trips for this year are on hold due to the protests/unrest. However we are continuing to support the project remotely. We are re-evaluating our design. We are donating up to 20 recycled laptops to the school. The Denver Chapter is taking on solar electricity (to support the pending laptop donations) and the PSU students are working on sanitation issues. As noted before, we are ready to go as soon as we can, but we are also very concerned for our friends living there. **UPDATE:** The US State Department issued a travel warning for all of Ethiopia as of 10-23-16.

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.

HAITI BRIDGE PROJECT- For those who heard Dave Murphy's presentation, he was working on an independent project to move the Fore River Bridge in Quincy MA to Haiti. With the recent devastation from hurricane Matthew, the need is now so much greater. Work continues on that project and several folks have stepped up to help (both for travel/field work, and desk top design support), though the project has been pushed off until spring 2017. If you are interested in getting involved, please let us know. We have also set up a donation mechanism where 100% of the funds will go to supplies in the area; no monies will go to overhead of "other expenses".

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). 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.

FUNDRAISING On to PORTLAND UNCORKED!. We are looking for the best venue, and are entertaining options. The event will be held in February, just after Engineers Week so that we don't overlap with school vacation. A fundraising meeting followed the Chapter meeting. All are welcome to attend.

STEM OUTREACH Local school outreach has already started as we continue to present some of our work. One presentation is scheduled for Mon., Oct. 24 at King Middle School in Portland. We will have a table at the annual STEM fair for Portland middle school students scheduled for Nov 4 at the USM

Sullivan Gym. We'll be back at Greely Middle School in Cumberland on Nov. 18, 2016. Anyone interested in presenting, please let us know. 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.

PORTLAND ADULT EDUCATION- PAE reached out to support a recent Congolese refugee, Claude Mavungu, to find work/or a path toward working in his profession. Claude is trained as an electrical engineer. We've connected Claude with Senase, an engineer from AMECFW and an African immigrant, who is helping him in his job search.

NEW PROJECTS- We are actively seeking a new water project to adopt. The key criterion is the strength and organization of the NGO. Several options are coming up, and from our last meeting we are looking to Central or South America, and a water project. If you are willing to lead this effort, please let Nadia know (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).

October Presentation

USM EWB student chapter members Hunter Wing and Lucas Johnas provided an excellent update on their solar panel project at the Hogar Rafael Ayan orphanage in Guatemala. The students plan to travel to Guatemala in January 2017 to work on an open loop solar water system to provide heat and hot water for the orphanage. They also plan to train people at the orphanage to maintain the system.

There was a good interaction during the presentation. Topics that need to be considered once warm showers are available at the orphanage are the volume of gray water and how to deal with it, i.e. a waste water system.

Please see the attached flyer to rent-a-student if you have odd jobs that need doing. It's their effort to raise additional funds for their trip to Guatemala. Help support the student chapter!

Other Business

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

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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