

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

9-20-2016 Meeting Minutes

President Nadia Glucksberg opened the meeting by asking for introductions of attendees. She noted there is no speaker for this meeting. It is intended to be a broad discussion about where the chapter is and where it wants to go. Nadia reviewed ongoing chapter activities and news, including:

NEW IDEAS: Nadia noted that while the same chapter board members will continue for another year, the chapter continues to: seek out new ideas for speakers; seek out new opportunities to do STEM presentations to schools; identify local outreach opportunities; and identify project opportunities as well as project leadership.

REQUESTS: Nadia reported she'd received a request from our April 2016 speaker, Scott Teas and Pamela Hawkes from Scattergood Designs, regarding the best way to deal with chemistry lab waste at the school(s) they're designing in Tanzania. Nadia will send a request out to the chapter distribution list to solicit ideas and options for them.

David Murphy, our July 2016 speaker, needs support for the Haiti Bridge Construction project with which he's involved. Specifically needed is expertise in watershed delineation and surveying. Kathy Kern is lending support for road design work. If you're interested and able to participate, please contact Nadia at ngluckberg@haleyalrich.com.

Catholic Charities of Maine continues to look for support for their Refugee & Immigration Services. Anyone interested in more info should check out their website at www.ccmaine.org.

Safe Passage needs volunteers for trips to Guatemala City. Please contact www.safepassageorg for more information about opportunities to participate and/or travel.

The Hartford EWB professional chapter is looking for water experts for their water project in Nepal. FMI, please contact Nadia at nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com.

Our local Adult Ed programs need support. These programs provide education & training support for legal immigrants seeking to establish new lives and careers in Maine. For more information, please contact Kathy Kern at katherine.kern58@gmail.com.

EMPLOYMENT NEWS: Nadia offered congratulations to Dan Goettel who was recently hired by Haley & Aldrich. She noted that our chapter has been involved in 4 other professional placements and continues to assist with job hunting for individuals.

FUNDRAISING: The annual yard sale in August was a huge success! Thanks to all who helped set up Friday and worked tirelessly on Saturday. We raised the most money ever, clearing \$2,100. Huge huge, huge thanks to Kathy & Stan as well as Jake & Andrea who SINGLE-HANDEDLY cleaned up on Sunday. Extended thanks as well to Jake's neighbors who lets us use their land. We also recently received a donation from AMEC Foster Wheeler. We are in great shape to support projects.

The next big fundraiser is Portland Uncorked! in the 1st quarter 2017. The chapter board is currently working on initial plans and looking for chapter support (bodies!) to work on: obtaining corporate sponsors; securing silent auctions items; organizing the silent auction/ticket sales/"run-of-show" for the evening; advertising & publicity for the event. More to come!

DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA: While we've received approval from the TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) to travel to work on this portion of the project, the fall travel schedule has been postponed due to political unrest in Ethiopia. The US State Dept. has issued a "watch" for Ethiopia until February 2017, which does not preclude travel to the country. However, based on in-country reports we're waiting until after the start of the university school year (when protests may spread) to determine our travel schedule. Jim Landau and Matt Bubar hope to travel to Debre Birhan for 2 weeks when they can.

Nadia reported 20 (?) used computers were donated by Haley & Aldrich to.....

Also noted that compressed earth block (CEB) production is under way in Debre Birhan, as several thousand blocks are needed for school construction.

Succeeding trips can extend into early 2017. Contact Nadia Glucksberg (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com) or Kevin (KRuss@haleyaldrich.com) if you want to get involved or be on the email distribution list. Project team meetings occur separately from chapter meetings and all welcome. Travelers wanted!

We are fortunate that there are two other chapters that will join our travel efforts and will be supported by their own fundraising efforts. Oregon State University (OSU) will support construction and water line installation when they can travel. Portland State University (PSU) hopes to travel in December to construct the latrines. Additionally, the South Denver (CO) Professional Chapter has offered their support, as their project has been sidelined due to concerns about the Zika virus. These groups are not going in place of us, but instead to support our program and get more "hands" in the mix. Our role is still to lead the building construction effort.

STEM OUTREACH: Local school outreach has already started as we continue to present some of our work. Tentatively planning to participate again in the STEM Expo for Portland school on Nov. 4. We'll talk to Greely Middle School students on Friday, Nov. 18. We're lining up other schools for presentations.

Anyone interested, 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. Please contact Kathy Kern (Katherine.kern58@gmail.com) for more info or to participate. If you have an interest in spearheading this effort, please let us know.

BY-LAWS: Jay Peters noted that the chapter by-laws can be reviewed for any potential revisions. Please contact Jay if needed at JPeters@haleyaldrich.com.

PROJECT OUTREACH: Nadia, Jay Peters and Kathy Kern are scheduled to speak to the South Portland Rotary Club on Thursday, Oct. 6 re: potential project opportunities for our chapter. The Rotary Club has international projects going on.

CHAPTER DISCUSSION

There was an enthusiastic discussion about where the chapter wants to go next for project work, now that the Dorgobom project has ended and Debre Birhan will end at some point.

General project opinions rendered included:

- Stay in western hemisphere;
- Water/sanitary projects preferred;
- NGO must be engaged & responsive; committed to at least 5% of project cost;
- Language “barrier” should be considered;
- Zika virus not a major concern;
- USM Guatemala solar project – any way to team up with that project?

There was also discussion about potential speakers and topics for 2016/2017, including:

- Matt Randall – new company?
- Lars Whelan – experiences in West Africa;
- Northern Ireland exchange students;
- Rotary Club;
- United Way – local outreach;
- Randy Braley – Mideast water projects;
- Jim Landau – construction status of Debre Birhan project;
- Habitat for Humanity – local outreach;
- Hartford Professional Chapter (EWB) – info on their projects

We are looking for someone to lead the effort for a new project. If you’re interested, please contact Nadia Glucksberg at nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com.

Other Business

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

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the event room at the Sea Dog Brew Pub, 125 Western Avenue, South Portland, ME

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Secretary