

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

3-22-2016 Meeting Minutes

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

MENTOR NEEDED: Portland Adult Ed has reached out to request help finding a mentor for a recent immigrant from DRM who was a practicing engineer before he arrived in Portland. He's looking to make some connections to find employment in his line of work now that he's getting settled \. His English level is pretty high and he's very intelligent and motivated. If you have time ore are willing, please let Nadia know – nglucksberg@hakeyaldrich.com. UPDATE: Thanks to Brad Roland for volunteering!

STEM OUTREACH: We're in communication with eight area school systems and planning to start presentations on March 23, 2016. We'll also be presenting at Kennebunk High School on April 6. UPDATE: date is now April 28. If you have time/interest to join school kids and share how engineering has a direct impact on public health (and is not always behind a desk), contact Kathy Kern (Katherine.kern58@gmail.com). Other dates are being scheduled soon, we have the materials and Power Point presentations already built, and you'll be scheduled with a partner so you don't have to go alone.

DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA: Now that the first stage of subgrade work is done the team is moving forward with columns and roof beams. We're currently drafting the required reports for EWB-USA and awaiting notice that the work remaining from our December 2015 trip has been completed so we can return in the spring to continue constructing the columns and roof beams. Interested in traveling? Please contact Nadia (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com) or Kevin (kruss@haleyaldrich.com). Project team meetings occur separately from chapter meetings and all are welcome. Next team meeting is April 14.

DORGOBOM, GHANA: The team has drafted a request for information as well as the draft MOU and plans to run it by the CDDF (our connections in Ghana) to gain community support. The community has submitted a report on the status of the Rain Water Harvesting system as well as rainfall (actually it has been dry). We see this as a great step to spark our return and initiate the MOU with the community For more information, please contact Kelcy at Kelcy.Adamec@hdrinc.com. There is also hope to connect with a footballer in Dorgobom, who is working in the community t extend a public water line to the village.

FUNDRAISING: Portland Uncorked! was a huge success! Thank you to all who helpd, but particularly to Kathy Kern and Kathy Hillman Reed. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all who supported the effort to make this a great event.

SUPPORT USM's CHAPTER: Because the USM EWB student chapter holding a fundraiser at Flatbread Co. on 3/22/16, there will not be an administrative meeting after the regular chapter meeting. Consider stopping by the Flatbread event in support of the USM chapter. USM also has a "Go Fund Me" page (<https://www.gofundme.com/bgatty9>).

March Presentation

Nadia introduced Amy Floren as our guest speaker. Amy works with Bridges to Prosperity, an organization that provides isolated communities around the world with access to essential health care, education, markets and economic opportunities by building bridges over impassible rivers.

Amy presentation covered the origins of Bridges to Prosperity (2001), their first project in Ethiopia, and the goals of the organization: innovate, inspire and educate. She noted the role of Bridges to Prosperity is to educate and train volunteers and community members about bridge technology. The organization has built over 200 bridges in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Financial support comes primarily from fundraising and donations. Volunteers are the primary source of manpower for projects.

Amy emphasized her goal of increasing name recognition for the organization (saying that to many it sounds like a financial services company!). She noted it might be possible to partner with EWB if the project was appropriate. There was an excellent Q&A period following her presentation.

Here are some video clips Amy shared that might find of interest:

CH2MHill team Panama footbridge construction (2 min - make sure your sound is on!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DshzUVAjQI0>

Laos Fisherman crossing rapids on cables (2 min)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BatNelDbdw>

Construction of Ethiopia footbridge (7 min)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5h0oJyTcvY>

Avery Bang Ted Talk (11 min)

<http://tedxtalks.ted.com/video/TEDxBOULDER-Avery-Bang-Building;Film>

Other Business

None was brought forth.

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the event room at the Sea Dog Brew Pub, 125 Western Avenue, South Portland, ME. Our guests are currently building a school in Tanzania, which is not only interesting, but also relevant to our Debre Birhan project. Join us!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Secretary