

## EWB Portland Maine Professionals

### 2-16-2016 Meeting Minutes

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

**STUDENT RESUMES:** Nadia reported she'd received a resume from a UMaine Orono engineering student who is looking for an internship. He first came to Maine from Egypt as a participant at the Seeds of Peace Camp in Maine. His family now lives here with him. He comes highly recommended as motivated, multilingual and smart. She encouraged resumes to be shared among chapter participants. If you would like a copy of his resume, please contact Nadia at [nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com](mailto:nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).

**FUNDRAISING:** Portland Uncorked! is coming up on February 25th at The Portland Club. We're continuing to solicit corporate sponsors. We're also accepting silent auction items and we're teaming up with our STEM outreach for some items to include Student Community Services (labor for yard clean up, painting, raking, etc...). Nadia asked all to continue to push ticket sales, either online or paper tickets. We need to provide a final head count to the venue on 2/23/16.

Getting the word out:

February 21 Maine Sunday Telegram – EWB PMP article in the Engineers Week insert as well as an ad for the Portland Uncorked! event;

The EWB PMPM chapter will be featured on WCSH Channel 6 "207" on February 22, 2016, prior to the event to get the word out and share our chapter's success. Matt Randall & Mary Kate Hegarty will be filmed for the segment.

**STEM OUTREACH:** Kathy Kern reported there is a Massabesic High School Science Fair scheduled for mid-March (Waterboro, ME RSU 57). We need presenters for that event and others to be scheduled into May 2016. This is typically a commitment of a few hours during the school day and is a lot of fun. Travel with the chapter is not a prerequisite to present and we will provide materials and send a team of at least two folks to present. If you're interested, let Kathy Kern know at [Katherine.kern58@gmail.com](mailto:Katherine.kern58@gmail.com).

**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 working with Architects Without Borders in Portland, OR on the wall/window design and we're planning for spring trips. If you're interested, let Nadia ([nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com](mailto:nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com)) or Kevin ([kruss@haleyaldrich.com](mailto:kruss@haleyaldrich.com)) know.

**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. As of this meeting, no response had been received after a second request was made. **Update:** On 2/23/16 the community responded and provided some of the requested information, so the project team continues to move forward with plans for another trip to Ghana. If you're interested in joining this group, please contact Kelcy at [Kelcy.Adamec@hdrinc.com](mailto:Kelcy.Adamec@hdrinc.com).

**\*\*\*UPDATE: Upcoming event for USM EWB Student Chapter\*\*\***

The USM EWB student chapter is preparing for a May 2016 trip to Guatemala to continue work on their solar heat project at an orphanage there. They're planning a fundraiser to benefit that project at Flatbread Co. in Portland on March 22, 2016 in the evening. Please see the attached flyer about the event.

**February Presentation**

Kathy Kern introduced Arene Sebaziga as our guest speaker. Arsene first joined EWB after arriving in Portland from Rwanda following the genocide there and in Burundi during the 1990's. He worked with our chapter (Kathy Kern) to refine his resume. He was able to secure a job with the State of Maine, where he has been promoted to Assistant Engineer at the DOT's Scarborough office.

Arsene gave a brief background of his family and education in Rwanda, noting he still has family members in Rwanda and Europe. In 2008, he was working in Equatorial Guinea and was happy with his job, but decided to come to the U.S. due to safety concerns for himself. He described the Hutu/Tutsi tribal conflict that led to the slaughter of nearly 1M people in Rwanda and Burundi in 1994, as well as the impacts it continued to have for him and his family.

Arsene described his experience trying to obtain a job in the US because his English was limited (though he spoke French) and he needed to adjust to the English measurement system. He expressed his gratitude for the help he received here to improve his English speaking and especially the help provided by Kathy Kern to use the English measurement system. Arsene said he wants to help others like himself, who come to Portland hoping to resettle and work. He said he was especially proud of his EWB membership and proud of his US career, thanks to the help he received in part from EWB.

**Other Business**

**Mentor Request:** Portland Adult Ed has reached out to request a mentor for help. They have a recent immigrant from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) 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 and are willing, please let Nadia know ([nluckberg@haleyaldrich.com](mailto:nluckberg@haleyaldrich.com)).

**EWB-USA Meetings:** There are two upcoming meetings:

- EWB New England Mini Conference – Held at UNH and it's free. Advertised as EWB Boot Camp. Conference date is Sat., April 2. RSVP deadline is March 12.
- 2016 EWB International Summit – Denver CO, March 17 – 19. Check the EWB USA website for details. Our chapter can support this meeting, but we have not provided travel support. If you're headed there anyway and want to attend, please contact Jay Peres at [jpeters@haleyaldrich.com](mailto:jpeters@haleyaldrich.com).

There was an administrative meeting immediately following the PMP chapter meeting.

**Next Meeting – NOTE DATE CHANGE!!!**

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 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