

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

1-19-2016 Meeting Minutes

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

CHAPTER BYLAWS: Nadia noted that draft chapter bylaws were sent out to our distribution list on January 15, 2016 for review. Any feedback/comments are welcome. Intent is to vote on revised bylaws by the end of January. Nadia reminded everyone that all paid members are eligible to vote. (UPDATE: this will likely get pushed back to end of Q1 to address/incorporate comments and focus on PORTLAND UNCORKED!)

STEM OUTREACH: Kathy Kern has reached out to multiple schools in the area and is organizing modules/presentations that focus on our work in Dorgobom and Debre Birhan that are suitable for middle school through high school classes. She reported 8 schools have responded and want to set up dates for presentations. Once we get schedule requests from the schools, we will be looking for volunteers to present/work with the schools. 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.

FUNDRAISING: *Portland Uncorked will be held on February 25th at the Portland Club.* This event allows us to travel and make a difference. Tickets were handed out at the meeting and are available on line. **THIS IS OUR MAIN EVENT. HELP GET THE WORD OUT AND PLEASE BRING YOUR FRIENDS, COWORKERS, NEIGHBORS, AND EVERYONE YOU KNOW.** We are also accepting silent auction items and are teaming with our STEM outreach for some items to include Student Community Services (labor for yard clean up, painting, raking, etc...). We 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.

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. They have received encouraging responses from Boss, with comments on our proposed MOU and we are now awaiting data. Once the community responds positively, we can then plan our return trip to continue our work there, too. If you're interested in joining this group, please contact Kelcy at Kelcy.Adamec@hdrinc.com.

DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA: The last team returned just after the new year. Mary Kate Hegarty and Kevin Russ, along with the students from PSU, made amazing progress in pouring the footings and grade beams. We are now prepping for the next step, to pour the columns and connecting the roof beams. If you're interested in spring travel and getting involved, please let Nadia know at nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com. Huge thanks to all who have traveled and brought back items for fundraising and for those considering going back..

January Presentation

Tarlan Ahmadov presented a Power Point overview of the Catholic Charities of Maine's (CCM) Refugee & Immigration Services and Language Partners program. He introduced his guest Narwar Alobaidi, an Iraqi refugee, who has benefitted from CCM's program. Narwar described his education and work background in Iraq. He says he came to the US in 2012 because he was targeted by insurgents in Iraq for his work with US companies there.

Tarlan outlined some details of the CCM programs for refugees and asylum seekers, noting that many are highly educated but face a number of challenges (legal, language, cultural) finding work in the US.

When asked what EWB in Portland could do in our communities to assist with job placement, Tarlan said staying in touch with CCM and Portland Adult Ed programs and services would be the best bet.

Other Business

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

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 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