

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

11-17-2015 Meeting Minutes

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

STEM OUTREACH. On Tuesday 11/17, Kathy Kern, Mike Zanchi and Kathy Hillman Reed staffed a table at the STEM Expo for Portland area middle school kids. It was a great venue for talking about EWB and our projects – lots of interested kids.

We also have five schools welcoming EWB to support their STEM programs. The STEM outreach team will meet weekly (at first) to develop programs for the different grade levels. We'll also need people to help with school presentations. If interested, let Kathy know as we'll start our lecture circuit this spring! Contact her at Katherine.kern58@gmail.com. Kathy Kern was also judged/participated in an egg crushing event at Greely Middle School in Cumberland.

FUNDRAISING: Portland Uncorked will be held on February 25, 2016 at the Portland Club. This event allows us to travel and make a difference. Ticket sales will cover the cost of the event. Please get ready to sell tickets, spread the word, collect silent auction items. If you know local craft folks, talented hobbyists, or have a talent yourself, please consider asking for/donating silent auction items. Most importantly, save the date – as it's always a good time. MUCH more info to come!!

Kathy Kern is working on getting EWB PMP a spot on Channel 6 "207" to advertise our chapter and fundraiser, as well as an advertisement in the Maine Sunday Telegram during Engineers' Week in February 2016. We will also likely host a reception for our corporate sponsors (current and potential) to generate more support. Kathy Kern is working on date, time and place.

DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA: The last team returned in late October 2015. Mary Kate Hegarty and Kevin Russ are heading over in December 2015 to continue with the foundation work. We have timed the trip to overlap with the PSU chapter, whose students will work on the water line and CEB construction. If you're interested in spring 2016 travel and getting involved, please let Mary Kate Hegarty know at marykateh83@gmail.com.

DORGOBOM, GHANNA. 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. Once the community responds positively, we can then plan our return trip to continue our work there. If interested in joining this group, please contact Kelcy at Kelcy.Adamec@hdrinc.

WEBPAGE support –Heather Lumb stepped forward to take over managing the webpage. Thank you, Heather!!!! If you have information that is appropriate for the EWB PMP website, please send it to Heather at heatherlumb@rocketmail.com.

Other EWB Chapter Support: Scott Winchester was in Sabhung, Nepal supporting the Hartford (CT) Professionals Chapter on their water project. He's safely back in Maine and had a great trip.

There may be other opportunities to support Trinity College with their sanitation project in Tanzania. More info to come.

November Presentation

Sally Sutton, Program Coordinator for the New Mainers Resource Center (NMRC) and Deb Breiting, co-founder of Maine Intercultural Communications Consultants did a joint presentation about the NMRC within the Portland Adult Education program. NMRC is a program that serves area immigrants and refugees by providing a skilled professional program, employment case management, intensive classes focused on job readiness skills, networking groups and workshops. These all are designed to help immigrants and refugees in Maine to enter the US workforce. Of particular importance are “accent reduction” classes, public speaking classes, and increasing understanding of the U.S. workplace culture and job search skills.

There was great discussion about cultural differences that can be obstacles or barriers to job seekers new to the U.S. There was also acknowledgement that a class in metric to English measurement conversion needs to be developed. Anyone interested in the NMRC program should contact Sally at suttos@portlandschools.org or Deb at deb@maineintercultural.com. The websites may be accessed at www.nmrcline.org and www.maineintercultural.com.

Other Business

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

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the event room at the Sea Dog Brew Pub, 125 Western Avenue, South Portland, ME. The October Debre Birhan project team will be providing an update on the construction project in Ethiopia. The meeting will include a little holiday cheer, too!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Secretary