

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

6/18/13 Meeting Minutes

Community Outreach

Nadia reviewed various chapter activities, both upcoming and ongoing, including:

- **Dorgobom Water Project** – The travel team will be presenting their report later in the summer (August meeting) so that planning for the next trip can begin. There are still projects to implement and more information will be available about them after the assessment report is presented.
- **The Community Project: Debre Birhan, Ethiopia** – EWB Portland Professionals is has been approved as the lead chapter for a project in Debre Birhan, Ethiopia that includes construction of a 24-room schoolhouse, community center and community garden. We will team up with the Portland (OR) Professionals chapter and the Portland State University student chapter. The project needs project leaders, both stateside and in-country. An assessment trip is being planned for September 2013. Habitat for Humanity actively works in the community building homes with local materials, which will be part of the EWB assessment. Fundraising is underway – each EWB chapter is responsible for its expenses associated with the project/trip.
- **Fundraising**
 - Yard Sale fundraiser July 13 & 14, 2013: BBQ/work party on July 12 to set up for the sale. Bring goodies to share at the BBQ. Location is Jake Jacobson’s house in Cumberland. Volunteers and sale items needed. Contact Kathy Kern for more info. NOTE the yard sale will be the July chapter meeting.
 - Yarmouth Clam Festival July 19 – 21: Still on the wait list for a booth.
 - Wine/Beer Tasting fundraiser – September 26, 2013: The fundraising team is moving ahead with plans for the 2nd annual event at Ocean Gateway. Silent Auction items are needed. Fundraising meetings are happening every 2 weeks and additional hands are needed. If interested, contact Kathy Kern.
 - Common Ground Fair – September 20 – 22, 2013. An application was submitted for a booth/table at the fair. We’re waiting for a response from MOFGA.
- **Portland Adult Ed Center**: We’re continuing our support for helping emigrants looking for help with their job search. This includes helping to revise resumes, drafting cover letters to fit typical expectations in the US and one-on-one meetings to discuss local/US expectations. We will likely host another panel session in the fall. If interested in working with emigrants, contact Nadia Glucksberg.
- **School Outreach**: School presentations continue. We will resume these activities with the new school year. If interested in being the liaison to Portland schools (and other towns), contact Sara Wright.
- **University of Maine Orono EWB Chapter**: Karen Arnold and Kathy Kern are working with the campus chapter to help them develop a project for implementation.

- Trinity College Chapter: Nadia reported the trip to Tanzania in May was a huge success. The group implemented a latrine project for a preschool in a small village.
- Annual Elections: Elections will be done by e-mail votes for the following offices – terms to begin in September 2013:
 - President – Kelcy Adamec, Matt Randall
 - Vice President – Mike? (we have a volunteer)
 - Treasurer – Jay Peters
 - Secretary – Kathy Hillman Reed

If interested in one of these offices, contact Kathy Kern by 6/30/12. Nadia noted if there was no taker for VP, she would suggest names of those who “might enjoy the challenge”! She also noted that officers must be paid chapter members.

- Online Shopping – Register on www.GoodSearch.com to access GoodShop.com and earn money for our chapter and coupons for you every time you shop. When you sign up – please select our EWB Chapter to receive the donations. We are almost at \$300 of donation....let’s shoot for \$500 by back-to-school sales.
- Maine PE credit hours – See Stan Reed for certificates

Seed of Peace - Ghana

Guest speaker was Pious Ali, a native of Ghana who now lives and works in the Portland, ME area.

Pious reviewed the history of the Seed of Peace organization and the development of the Maine summer camp program. The summer camp is a program to promote peaceful co-existence, conflict resolution and youth leadership development. High school students from Middle Eastern countries, India, Afghanistan and Pakistan come to Maine to spend time with American students and each other to work on the programs’ goals. Pious is currently mentoring low-income kids in the Portland area and working on obtaining scholarships for kids to attend the Seeds of Peace camp program.

A discussion developed about how the EWB Portland Professionals chapter could help with mentoring kids in Portland. Pious encouraged us to consider focusing on all kids, not just those who appeared to be the brightest. The idea of developing an “engineering camp” was discussed and several ideas were exchanged about how to move forward, i.e. space, program content, etc. Rita Cooper offered to work with Pious to develop and possibly implement the idea.

New Business

None was brought forward.

Next Meeting

As noted : July 2013 meeting is replaced by the BBQ & Yard Sale July 13 & 14.

Tuesday, August 20, 2013 – 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM in the event room at the Sea Dog Brewing Co. located at 125 Western Avenue in South Portland. Please visit the Chapter Meetings page FMI at www.ewbportlandmaine.org .