

EWB Portland

4/16/13 Meeting Minutes

Community Outreach

Nadia reviewed various chapter activities, both upcoming and ongoing.

- Dorgobom Water Project – The travel team was leaving for Ghana on 4/19/13 for their 3rd formal trip to the village to improve access to clean water. The trip will include a delivery of books for the village school/library.
- The Community Project: Ethiopia – The Portland chapter of EWB has been asked to partner with the Community Project to support an ongoing and funded project in Ethiopia. Specifically the Community Project is looking for engineering support for the project that includes construction of a school, community garden and community center in a poor, rural village. Our next step would be to file a “502” form with EWB-USA, which requires the chapter to demonstrate we have the funding, technical support and administrative support to take the project on. More discussion to come. Hopefully a Community Project founder will be a guest speaker in May.
- Community Outreach – School science fairs are coming up and need judges. If anyone is interested, please notify Nadia Gluckberg. EWB Portland continues to give presentations at local middle schools to generate interest in engineering within STEM programs.
- Portland Adult Ed – EWB Portland participated in a panel discussion on March 5, 2013 to meet with immigrant engineers about obtaining qualifications to work in their fields in the US. Nadia reported they spoke with about 25 people during the discussion. The purpose was to inform immigrant engineers about obtaining credentials to work in the US and constructing resumes.
- Mentoring – EWB Portland continues to support the Trinity College study chapter and their work in Tanzania, which includes an assessment trip to the country in May 2013. We are continuing to reach out to the UMaine Orono chapter as well.
- Fundraising – Kathy Kern noted upcoming events:
 - Yard Sale May 11 & 12 in Cumberland – “good stuff” needed
 - Booth at the Yarmouth Clam Festival in July – more info to come
 - Annual Ocean Gateway Wine/Beer Tasting & Silent Auction on September 26 – planning meetings are under way & new people who want to help will be included soon

EWB National

Jay Peters announced that EWB National matched \$1500 in donations that were contributed through the EWB-US year-end campaign – THANK YOU! Random donations have been received through the website. Nadia noted help was needed with writing thank-you’s to donors. Contact Nadia if you can assist.

Peace Corps Water Projects – Honduras

Guest speaker was Brad Wolfe, a geologist who served in the Peace Corps in Honduras from 1999-2001. While the original assignment for his group of volunteers was to repair Hurricane Mitch damage, he ended up working on a series of water system development projects in the Choluteca region of southwestern Honduras.

Brad described the general process used, including assessing how much water would be needed in any community, developing a “Water Board” in each community, assessing the water source and how to deliver it to the community and overseeing the actual construction of the water delivery system. He noted his role as a Peace Corps volunteer was mainly to consult and provide input, as it was very important for the communities to “own” the projects in order to maintain them once they were completed.

New Business

- Nadia noted that the chapter would need to elect officers in the fall and encouraged people to be thinking about their interest in serving as an officer.
- Nadia asked the group to be thinking about ideas for a new venue for meetings because attendance seems to be growing. For a new location, need to consider ability to do presentations, how many people generally attend, parking availability, etc.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 21, 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.