



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS-USA
PORTLAND, MAINE PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER

EWB PORTLAND MAINE MEETING MINUTES

Haley & Aldrich
August 16, 2010 6:00-7:30 PM

Attendees:	Brandon Newman	Sara Wright
	Nadia Glucksberg	Karen Arnold
	Shanta Keller	Althea Masterson
	Kathy Kern	Karie Senus
	Will Haskell	Jake Jacobson
	Kevin McKee	Tim Brandon
	Karen Merritt	

TREASURER'S REPORT

Shanta provided a brief update – all checks have now been credited to our chapter.

STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATE

Karen Merritt and Al Frick will be accompanying the students on their trip to Dulce Vivir. They will be traveling from August 21 – August 30. There are no other action items at this time involving our assistance to the students.

DOGOBOM PROJECT UPDATE

The 501 New Program application was submitted to EWB-USA on July 23rd for review and approval. It usually takes 6-8 weeks to hear back.

The next official step after 501 approval is to submit the 521Pre-Assessment Form. There won't be time to have that submitted and reviewed by the time Shanta and Nadia make the trip. Even though this won't be an "official" assessment trip, it will basically serve as one, and we may be able to get approval after the fact.

Shanta is traveling from Sept 29th – October 16th; Nadia is traveling from October 5th-14th. They will coordinate beforehand regarding data gathering and logistics.

BLACKSMITH INSTITUTE – LEAD DEATHS IN NIGERIA

Nadia received an email recently from The Blacksmith Institute (Blacksmith) about an immediate need to help some villages in Nigeria where several hundred people have died due to surficial lead poisoning.



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PORTLAND, MAINE PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER

[**Blacksmith's Mission** - to work in locations throughout the developing world where human health is most affected by pollution - industrial wastes, air emissions, and legacy pollution from old industry.]

Crisis - Nadia said there are five villages in Nigeria that have been identified with surficial lead poisoning. There is a gold mine nearby. Women pound the ore from the rock in their homes. Several hundred people have died due to exposure. The immediate need is to get rid of the source. They've cleaned up two villages and want to clean up the other three. They'd like to do this before the rainy season.

Training Needs - Blacksmith has taught and trained several people regarding appropriate PPE and tools to clean up the soils, and have designed and created a landfill. They'll gladly provide training; individuals are not required to have OSHA 40-hr training.

Schedule - The timeframe for this program is Sept 15th – Dec 15th. Blacksmith wants one woman and one man in each village to execute the field program. They need women because there are several places only women can go into. They are looking for people this week. Each stint lasts approximately 4-8 weeks. All expenses paid, but no compensation. Nadia said she'd do it in a heartbeat if it weren't for other obligations.

Collaboration - Blacksmith is working with the World Health Organization on this project; Doctors Without Borders is also involved. If they can divert funding from assessment phase to clean-up phase, they will be able to do a lot more.

<http://www.blacksmithinstitute.org/newsletter/lead-kills-again-blacksmith-experts-rush-to-respond-to-unprecedented-toll-in-nigeria.html#Emergency>

FALL 2010/SPRING 2011 AGENDA PLANNING

Meeting Times

In the fall, we will keep meetings on the second Monday from 6:00-7:30 PM.

Potential Topics

September: Seeds of Peace; Pre-Dogobom trip discussion
October: Student project post-trip, final design presentation. Implementation March 2011
November: David Murphy – presentation on Catholic Relief – Tsunami
December: Hugh Tozier, Konbit Sante; Nadia/Dave Pines – project in Ahbeypur



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS-USA
PORTLAND, MAINE PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER

FUNDRAISING/MARKETING/OUTREACH

Fundraising Chair – no one has volunteered to date. Kathy Kern said she would like to but is too busy. Sara said she would be willing to assist.

Letter to Local Firms - Althea and Karie have been working on a letter to send to local firms as part of our Outreach Campaign. There was a lot of discussion about the letter, who it would be sent to, contents/message, etc. Karie will be finalizing a draft during the next few weeks. A couple of questions were raised:

- When will the project be viable? *As soon as we receive approval from EWB-USA (probably mid-September).*
- How much do we need? *Probably \$30,000; first phase in 2011: \$15,000.*

We could provide a list of items for purchase in the letter as a way to donate. Nadia said she could get a list of items together.

If everyone could send Karie a contact person at their firm and potentially at another office, that would be appreciated. Kevin McKee said he's made presentations to every firm in the State, and has contact information if we need it.

Kathy will forward Althea and Karie the list of firms that EWB-UM has already contacted for donations.

Equipment Donations – Brandon suggested there may be vendors who want to contribute materials.

Mileage Donations – Althea asked about frequent flyer mileage donation – United does it. What about mileage donations to EWB Portland Maine?

Theatre in Buckfield - Sara Wright knows a theatre owner in Buckfield; Buckfield is approximately 1 hour from Portland, near Lewiston. At this theatre, they typically do a spoof of Late Night with David Letterman called "Early Evening". If we could get the first Early Evening show of the season, Sara said that would be great...high attendance. Usually a 2-night run. 158 seats. \$12-13 a ticket. Can supplement with raffle, etc.

Professional jugglers – they would do their show. Not sure if it's percentage.
Guests would be comprised of jugglers, us, anyone we can get to volunteer.

The theatre owner does a lot of charity work, has gone to India. She will meet with him this week. She asked for ideas and questions to discuss with him...how much do we need to raise, do we plan to advertise this event, etc. He just does press releases.



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PORTLAND, MAINE PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER

Freeport Players - Jake mentioned them – he says they don't market, maybe we could help them.

Yard Sale - Jake suggested this would be a great way to make money. We could have it on a property abutting Greeley Road in Cumberland – well traveled, good visibility. Best to have it around the time of Fall Cleanup pickup – anything that doesn't sell will get picked up and hauled away. He will look into this.

LOCAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Festival of Nations – A great success! We got the EWB Portland Maine name and mission out there, got names/contact information of over a dozen people who were interesting in joining and/or receiving more information. Many children participated in the water filter experiment. A special thanks to Karen Arnold for providing the idea and coordinating the event for us.



Reaching Out to Local Schools – Several folks have expressed interest in participating; further discussion/planning needs to take place.

Engineers Week – Will has championed our involvement in Engineers Week from early on. We need to make sure we have a booth at UMaine, etc. Possible article in Maine Sunday Telegram. [Engineers Week 2011 will be February 20 - 26.]

Lakes Environmental Association – LEA recently expressed need for assistance with a footbridge in Bridgton. We would not be able to respond within the timeframe they were looking for, but there are other opportunities to assist – trails, erosion control, etc.

Pious Ali – Both Karen Arnold and Karie know of/ have learned of a person named Pious Ali – a Ghanian who lives in the Greater Portland area and does a lot of non-profit and missionary-type



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS-USA
PORTLAND, MAINE PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER

work. Karie asked if he might have some connections for us here locally. Karen Arnold will contact him.

ACTION ITEMS

- Karie will create final draft of letter and list of corporations for donor solicitations as part of Outreach Campaign.
- All members are encouraged to provide Karie with your firm's contact person for transmittal of the outreach letter.
- Sara will get more information on the Early Evening event.
- Jake will provide more information on a yard sale; also will look into Freeport Players.
- Karen Arnold will contact Pious Ali.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, September 13, 2010 at TY Lin International.

I have prepared these meeting minutes to the best of my knowledge. If you have any comments or edits, please forward them to me.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kern