

EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

6/18/2019 MEETING MINUTES

Chapter President Nadia Glucksberg welcomed everyone and, after introductions, provided the following updates:

New Project: Our chapter has the capacity for a new project. We're actively looking for 1) a relevant project where we can make a difference and 2) someone within the chapter to lead it. The chapter will support the leader re: the project application and project management. Please let Nadia know if you are interested in project selection and/or jumping in (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).

CHAPTER OFFICERS: Once again we welcome ANYONE who would like to support the chapter. Our board will welcome change and if you have energy and want to get more involved, please let us know. All positions are up for change (including chapter president – hint hint) so please join us and bring new ideas to our meetings. Please consider taking one of the officer roles – President, V. President, Treasurer or Secretary. If you have questions, please contact Nadia (ngluckberg@haleyaldrich.com).

Fundraising: The annual PMP Yard Sale is coming up in August - not far away! Date is TBD, but if you have items in **good condition** you need to move along, or you have family/friends who have items they no longer want, please let us know. We can arrange for pick-ups or provide info for drop-offs. We also need **your help** for set-up, selling, and clean-up. Stay tuned for a sign-up sheet to give us a couple hours of your time to make this happen. THANK YOU!!! FMI, contact Kathy Hillman Reed (khillmanreed@gmail.com).

El Progreso, Ecuador: This is a water project up in the cloud forest northwest of Quito. The team has completed the first implementation trip. They are making great strides for the design of the distribution system. The team is planning now for travel in August/September for the second implementation trip. The team continues planning meetings to complete EWB requirements and communicate on Slack. If you are interested in joining this team, contact Baxter Miatke at baxter.miatke@woodplc.com.

Debre Birhan, Ethiopia: While this project is officially off the chapter's books because we've completed our portion and the Denver, CO chapter is now leading it, some consulting by our chapter continues. We will continue to support the project only as/if needed.

Milembe School, Tanzania: Pamela Hawkes and Scott Teas are working on the next phase of the Milembe School. They are designing the campus for the girls school in coordination with the Africa Schoolhouse. This will be the prototype for a self-contained dormitory compound, offices and classrooms. There is a Slack channel for this effort that all are welcome to join. Let Jay Peters know if you are interested in this project (jpeters@haleyaldrich.com).

Haiti Bridge Team: As of this meeting, no updates. From the prior month: Cashman's project leads were in-country and work had started. Our chapter is supporting the project with geo-technical, structural and hydrology input. Let Nick Dempsey (Nichoals.Dempsey@hdrinc.com) know if you are interested in this project. There is a Slack channel for the project.

EWB Chapter Outreach: in addition to Hartford Professional Chapter, Harvard, Northeastern, and WPI, we have added Drexel to our list of chapters where we are supporting drilling efforts. We continue to mentor the UMaine student chapter.

STEM OUTREACH: If you like kids and being a role model (or like playing hooky) join us. Our chapter is STILL looking for a member to lead the school outreach and organize the presentations. There will be opportunities to present to students in the new school year.

JUNE PRESENTATION

Ninette Irabarauta provided an excellent overview of the more recent history underlying the refugee situation in East Africa. Ninette hails from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. She is a practitioner in Sustainable International Development and works with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Ninette is a native of Burundi who came to the U.S. in 2012 seeking asylum from the war and genocide that occurred and the subsequent governmental upheaval. She described the underlying reasons for the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Burundians following ethnic conflicts, civil war, and genocide during the 1970's and again in the 1990's. She noted that the UNHCR began working in Burundi in 1995 to develop ways to repatriate Burundians, but the government (essentially a dictatorship) did not cooperate.

Ninette described the gap between the UNHCR vision and the reality in Burundi for those who have repatriated. The reality is they are treated as 2nd class citizens, there are language issues, and there are no educational materials or trained teachers to address the lack of education/opportunities for repatriated people.

She outlined her recommendations for moving forward for repatriated people as follows:

- Restructure international aid (UNHCR divides \$296.4M among refugee populations across the world – is it working?);
- Provide refugees correct info about repatriation to Burundi, i.e. the current reality;
- Explain land title development;
- Create centers to evaluate skills and education level of repatriated people;
- Include repatriated people in decision-making process; and
- Work to preserve safety and dignity of Burundian ex-pats in other countries.

A Q&A session followed.

NO JULY PMP CHAPTER MEETING!!

NEXT PMP CHAPTER MEETING IS TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2019 at SEA DOG BREWING CO. in SO. PORTLAND, ME from 6:00PM – 7:00PM. PLEASE JOIN US!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary