

EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

6/19/2018 MEETING MINUTES

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

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP: Thanks to Lars Whelan for accepting the position of Chapter Vice-Chair, as he is running unopposed. If others want to challenge or take on other roles (yes, President, Treasurer and Secretary are all still open) please let us know...but after September, you will be stuck with the same board if folks don't jump in and take on the challenge. None of the board members will be upset and all will fully support the change.

STEM OUTREACH: EWB PMP presented to students at King Middle School and joined the Cape Elizabeth STEAM Festival hosting the Water Challenge. Both were a lot of fun. Nadia shared handmade thank-you notes from the students at King Middle School.

Following their April presentation to our chapter, Gus Goodwin, a teacher at King Middle School, is looking to put together a KidWind Project workshop to have teachers and engineers get together to learn about the KidWind Project, think about possible ways to make gears, air foils, and turbine structures by building models together. He's planning to hold the workshop in September 2018. We're hoping a couple of chapter members might volunteer to participate in the workshop. More to come!

Other STEM activities will resume in the fall.

FUNDRAISING: get ready for our **annual yard sale** now scheduled for **August 18 & 19, 2018**. We need good quality items to add to our current stash. Please let your friends & family members know, especially if they're moving or just cleaning out. Direct items our way! More info to come. Huge thanks to Jake Jacobson for use of his garage and for hosting the event.

Please see the attached "Raffle of Thrones" flyer promoting a fundraiser conducted by the New Haven (CT) professional chapter to benefit their sanitation project in Colon Arriba, Nicaragua. It's an interesting fundraising concept!

EL PROGRESO, ECUADOR: This is a water project that will start as water distribution project. Our Alternative Assessment report has been submitted & approved! We're getting ready to go back for our first implementation trip later this summer/fall, once the next report (Pre-Implementation Plan) is submitted and approved. If you want to get involved, let Baxter Miatke know (baxter.miatke@woodplc.com) as this team meets separately for planning and completing the EWB requirements. Next meeting is planned for Tues., June 26 at 5:30PM at Woodard & Curran.

DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA: Our portion of this project is the design and construction of a school for 1000 K-12th graders, with support for the latrine design and miscellaneous support as needed. Currently, construction continues with hope for the first building to have walls this summer. Columns are complete and the lintels are being formed !!! UPDATE: the roof is in progress, with to goal to have it on the building before the rainy season starts (July/August).Travel is safe again and there is real hope

that the school will open for September 2018. If you are interested on getting involved, let Nadia know (naglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com). Project team meetings occur separately and will provide an update at the chapter meeting this month. Next project meeting will be on Thursday June 21, hosted by H&A.

HAITI BRIDGE TEAM: The Haiti Bridge project is moving forward with the design and construction at Perches and with Cashman purchasing a portable backpack drill rig. We are supporting the geo-technical evaluation as well as the structural calculations. Hopefully there are also travel opportunities. Let Nick Dempsey (Nicholas.Dempsey@hdrinc.com) know if you are interested in getting (back) involved.

EWB CHAPTER OUTREACH: We continue to support the EWB New Haven Professional Chapter with their sanitation project in Nicaragua. They are fundraising now, with hopes of traveling again this winter and will need a traveling mentor to join them. Interested? Let us know (naglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).

Nadia noted that Ransom Consulting and ect2 have job openings and urged anyone interested to contact their websites for more information.

There is now an official Plumbers Without Borders (PWB) organization that is interested in partnering with EWB chapters to support sustainable development projects. The organization can be reached at carm@plumberswithoutborders.org.

JUNE PRESENTATION

Our speaker was Stefanie Trice Gill, founding board member of Maine Association for New Americans (MANA) and owner of IntWork, a consulting business specializing in placement of immigrants into STEM positions that align with their expertise and/or experience. Stefanie is also a linguist and is fluent in Spanish, French, Portuguese and Mandarin.

Stefanie presented a series of background facts about the status of Maine's population, particularly the fact that there is a ratio of 1:7 or 1:8 for qualified people to fill available STEM jobs in the state and that Maine is 47th in the nation for producing engineers. She also noted that many, many immigrants in Maine hold advanced degrees and had professional level jobs in their native countries, but have been placed in low level jobs here for a variety of reasons, among them the time it takes to receive a visa, lack of "experience in Maine" and language skills. Her goal is to work with immigrants to place them in appropriate professional positions rather than any available job.

Stefanie stated there are between 100 and 200 immigrant engineers in Maine without jobs in their fields. Given the ratio of qualified people to available STEM jobs, Maine needs these immigrants almost more than the immigrants need Maine. She encouraged meeting attendees to connect her consulting firm (IntWork) with company CEO's or HR directors to initiate discussions about possible placement(s).

There was a brief Q&A period following her excellent presentation. **UPDATE:** check out this newspaper article dated 6/23/18: <https://www.pressherald.com/2018/06/22/immigrants-describe-cold-reception-from-maine-employers/>.

NEXT MEETING: NO JULY MEETING!! NEXT CHAPTER MEETING IS AUGUST 21, 2018 at 6:00PM at SEA DOG PREWING in SO. PORTLAND, ME.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary