**THE VALE NEWS**

April 9, 2014

Vol. 38 Issue No. 34

MAGAZINE - a time to recognize the contribution made by THE ROTARIAN and 27 regional Rotary magazines

**Club Calendar & Speaker Assignments**

April  9 Honduras Team Report

    16 Gov. Schumlin

       23 William Carrigan, Vt. Dept of Financial Regulationtion -  Fraud Prevention

    30 Jim Reagan re: Senior Housing

May   7 Will Flender, Exec. Dir. - Mad River Path Assn.

       14 Rob Williams - Vermont PUBLIC BANK

      21 Jeb Spaulding - VT Sec’y. of Administration

      28 No meeting - Rotary Person of the Year Dinner

**Birthdays**  Karl Klein 4/9

**Anniversaries**    Ken & Judy Nadolny  4/14

**Meeting News**

There’s still some snow on the ground but Spring is in the air.

Gary Plewak conducted our meeting today as Manny is still out of town.

Bunch of guests today: Carol Crossman - spokensman for the Senior Citizens of MRV, exchange students both coming and going to Europe: Liesbeth Jacobs, Drew Platt, Caleb Hoynes; Carol  Groom (Jim’s wife) and Tom Witschi from the Honduras Team.

**Announcements**

Next week Gov. Schumlin will speak to us.  Although it said Thursday in the Valley Reporter, it will be on our usual day Wednesday 4/16.

Carole Crossman invited us all to attend the MRV Senior Easter Day lunch on Thursday April 17 at noon at Evergreen Place.  Attendance has fallen off recently and to boost it up again, the seniors need help

OUTHOUSE   -       STILL STANDING BUT SWAYING IN THE BREEZE.

**Megabucks**: $50 for first week, more for the next two weeks. Both Monk & Joe Klimek won chances to draw a card from the new deck but were absent today.  Bob Holden had his ticket drawn today but could not locate joker in new deck and got the loser’s prize of $5.

**Happy Bucks**

Karl Klein - just a Merry old soul

D. Ellison - Enjoyed week of skiing out west

Al Barillaro - Happy for others

Jim Leyton - Happoy to be back

Betty - happy for good weather and to see students here

Audrey - Enthusiastic about Honduras work trip

Gordon - Mad season

Carol Hosford - spent time with grandkids in Brooklyn

**Program**

                 Hands to Honduras - Tela Service Trip  (H2HT)

                      January 25 - February 22, 2014

Honduras is a small country in Central America surrounded by the Caribbean Sea on the North, and Northeast, Nicaragua on the South. Guatemala on the Northwest and El Salvador on the Southwest.

At least 75% of the country is mountainous.  Honduras is currently the second-poorest country in the Americas and one of the poorest in the Western Hemisphere.

Report on Volunteer weeks (Feb.1 - 15)  2014

This is a compilation of reports/stories from porject leaders and volunteers.  (Audrey & Tom Witschi, Ken Friedman and Joe Goldstein)

On Wed., Feb. 12. Audrey & Tom Witschi along with their team (Emily & Chris) and two girl interpreters from the Tele American School were working at the Las Palmas school preparing the desks for their new tops.  It was an eye-opening experience for all of them and they enjoyed the social interchange with Esterina and Pedro.

Projects at the hospital.

It took over 3 years for the US Govt and the Honduras Authorities to agree on plans for the proposed Neonatal Center at the Tela Hospital. They have recently received the final design and cimentacion plans. They are now awaiting the detail plans for foundation, electric, water, windows, etc.

It is expected that construction of the foundation will begin in Sept.2014 and volunteer assisted construction of the building in Feb. 2015. No one said doing business in Honduras would be easy.

H2HT made 5 visitations to the Hogar Maternity Hospital during the 4 week service trip. Each visit gave joy that the facility is very clean. Over 3,500 babies are born at Tele Hospital each year.  H2HT provided many baby clothes and supplies for the new babies.

The 3 H2HT volunteer physicians were given a tour of theTela Hospital on 2/14/14. Maternity care & obstetrics is the primary reason for the women to be admitted.  Most of their equipment is primitive.  If a person is so ill as to require transfer to a hospital in San Pedro Sula, an ambulance or taxi will be called. Very often no driver is available and private transportation is required and an infant may be “hand bagged” the entire trip as there is no ventilator available.

Tom Witschi visited the hospital in Tela accompanied by a pediatricain and a family doctor. He was shown the major areas of the hospital and various wards and noted that the major function of the hospital was to deliver babies.  They had neither an image intensifier nor a portable X-ray machine.  This means that operations requiring the use of an X-ray could not be done.

The proposed neonatal intensive unit will require expensive  equipment along with training and support for the machine as the hospital itself lacks a lot of basic infrastructure.

They were involved in other medical projects - Women’s Health Clinics, Dental Care and Training, Fluoride Clinics etc.

Painting Project - at Palmas School

Audrey & Tom worked so hard painting and were always there with a helping hand.  When lunchtime rolled around, Audrey put her paint brush down to make peanut butter sandwiches and saw that everyone was fed. Tom’s wonderful idea for new desk tops was outstanding.  He researched, organized and implemented the whole thing and covered the costs. The assembly team of Bert & Ken with a power drill helped complete the job.  Joe had good assembly talents as well

They did a lot of shopping in local hardware shops including buying copper tubing.

They also cleaned up a tremendous amount of trash on the site.  The Tres de Mayo School is a frame  one story building  Work was begun on the agricultural high school in 2012 The old building leaked and the crew tore off the old roof and windows and replaced them with a new design. This was completed in 2013.

This year they spent 2 weeks  moving dirt to raise the floor  and laying concrete block to reshape the building and used a great deal of rebar to give the structure strength,  The community was very helpful in these projects.

They also painted the 2013 building and a kitchen a light blue on the inside and a melon on the outside.

(Editor’s note: I am not going to give you a detailed report on all the extensive electrical work needed and donated by the crew).

During the 2014 trip, they developed and installed 3 toilets in the Honduras school. There are many other projects accomplished by the H2HT teams over several years.  Their report is as long as a copy of the Rotarian Magazine.

For photos and additional stories, please follow “Hands to Honduras-Tela” on Facebook.

                             THE FOUR WAY TEST

                        of the things we think, say or do:

1) Is it the Truth?

2) Is it Fair to all Concerned?

3) Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?

4) Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?

**The Vale News**

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