



ROTARY TWEETS OF THE WEEK

Weekly Tidbits to Keep You Informed

www.rotarybelize.org Club 7193 District 4250



May 29, 2013

Calendar

- **Handing Over Ceremony:** Wed., June 26, 7 p.m. at the Radisson
- **Pres. Maria** thanked the four Rotarians who attended Dorothy Menzies Child Care Center's (DMCC) Walk-through and encouraged others to make a visit to see Stage Three progress
- **Water Filtration Project Report** was viewed and accepted by the Rotary Foundation. Congratulations!
- **Sergeant at Arms: Collected:** Fines: \$ 88 Foundation: \$ 20.50
- **Attendance last week:**
- **45 Members:** 33 Present, 73%
- **Attendance today:**
- **45 Members:** 26 Present, 58%

Program

- **Toast:** Errol R toasted to every Rotarian activities.
- **Guest Presentation:** Randy Boissonault Executive Director of Literacy Without Borders, Edmonton AL Canada gave an energetic explanation of their partnership with Restore Belize and Rotary Belize. This three-year project will focus on South Side Belize City with an investment of \$500,000 USD, which may increase. A promo video opened with Pres. Maria and Pres. Elect Lynn. The project includes: Library re-builds, playgrounds; programs of parenting, community economic development, literacy and math, peace and conflict resolution and maternal & healthcare. The project begins on June 10, 2013.

Speaker: Rotarian Ernesto Vasquez "The Petroleum Industry"

Ernesto began his informative Pp presentation by explaining the Belize Petroleum Assoc. (BPA) wants deal the with the political and local misunderstanding that the industry is a "get rich scheme" and other countries do receive great benefit from their own oil industries. The BPA began in 2008 and was formally set in 2010. The BPA was formed to be a unified voice for the petroleum industry. Ernesto briefly highlighted the 50 year history of Belize oil industry and named Mike Usher, a Belizean Geologist as a driving force. In 2005 Belize Natural Energy (BNE) in Spanish Lookout originated. Ernesto detailed the terms of the contract (PSA) with the GOB which included a chart showing how the money is divided. Presently, there are 13 companies with petroleum concessions. Belize is a frontier country in petroleum. But in less than seven years the oil industry has become the single largest foreign exchange earner, the largest single tax payer and the single largest exporter in Belize. Revenue received by the GOB from 2005 – 1011 is over \$400 million BZD. The industry risks include: Environmental, economical, political, geological and regulatory issues. All risks must be managed carefully, using Canada as an example of a healthy oil industrial monitoring system. Ernesto described the seismic study. He then stated there is a problem with the process of meeting regulations. The BPA seeks to get everyone involved harmoniously and to maintain a level playing field. A regulatory environment for leasing facilities must be in place. A National Oil Spill Plan must also be in place. A regulatory body of exports, in all aspects of the industry must be established to eliminate costly delays in decision-making. Ernesto closed with a map showing drilling projects. Q & A: There are 13 PSA (Contract) holders. Belize uses Canada and USA as models.. The reason issues are not resolved is due to a lack of leadership. Belize also needs a plan to cover tankers ships and slash & burn farming. In the present condition, if an oil spill occurs, how can we trust the present system? A healthy oil industry can be a reality in Belize.