

# *District 7070 Literacy Newsletter*

## *Issue # 9 – April, 2016*

### **Chairman's Message**

It never rains but it pours. Our 7070 District Literacy Chair, Dennis Bailey and his wife, Patricia, arrived home to Canada from the Canary Islands, only to discover that Patricia needed heart surgery. The procedure will be done as soon as possible. Patricia is in hospital and resting comfortably. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them. Meanwhile as newsletter editor, I will fill in the Chair's remarks on his behalf this month.

### **The Ticking Clock.**

Some famous, observant gentleman noted that "time and tides wait for no man." As we enter the fourth quarter of the Rotary year, we should now have been able to check off a number of our club's to-do list items. Among those plans should be an item under literacy to be completed this Rotary year within your club. Perhaps your club has not yet checked that particular box for your annual literacy project. It is one of the easier activities to complete and your club could earn a 7070 District Literacy Award for your efforts.

The 7070 District Literacy Award is given to clubs who complete the mandatory five criteria. There is also a District 7070 Literacy Award with Distinction for those clubs who go above and beyond the minimal required performance and complete an additional set of criteria. This newsletter is dedicated to familiarizing your club with the requirements of these literacy awards and its May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

### **Recent Events**

#### **The Inter- Rotary 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spelling Bee (Quinte Version)**

Four District 7070 Rotary Clubs, Quinte Sunrise, Wellington Rotary, Trenton Rotary, and Belleville Rotary have joined forces to launch the second annual spelling bee. At the moment, there are 24 contenders from public and private schools and from learning centres and homeschoolers.

The Spelling Bee will be held at the Greek Orthodox Church on Harder Drive in Belleville on Saturday, May 7th beginning at 9:00 a.m. The public is welcome. Winners will be given certificates and prizes.

We will follow up with a report in the next newsletter.

#### **Picton Rotary Club inaugurates its literacy committee.**

The Rotary Club of Picton has selected Rotarian Darlene Eldridge as their club's literacy chair. Darlene expects to add members to her committee and is already canvassing her area to determine existing programs and opportunities for her Rotary Club. Congratulations to Darlene and the Rotary Club of Picton.

The literacy reach of District 7070 Rotary Clubs continues to expand. Rotarians are aware that the illiteracy rates are higher than acceptable and are seeking to assist those working to improve the outcomes for literacy in their particular area.

### **Submissions**

We suspect that there is much going on in the Rotary literacy world than we are aware of. As Rotarians, we are not investigative journalists. We rely for much of our information on other Rotarians. In the next three months, there will be a surge in literacy projects for the summer period. If you or your club is involved in or supports one of these events, please share your information. Email [Michael@maloneymethod.com](mailto:Michael@maloneymethod.com) or call 1-877-368-1513. We would be happy to report your activities in the Recent Events segment.

## **7070 District Literacy Committee's Featured Project - The 7070 District Literacy Awards**

**There are 5 basic requirements. They are outlined below with some suggestions. Each year the district gives awards to those clubs who are active in promoting literacy. A literacy project is one of the fundamental tasks each club is expected to complete. To be awarded a 7070 District Literacy Award**

### **BASIC REQUIREMENTS. (MANDATORY)**

1. Establish a club literacy committee and supply a contact name to the District Literacy Chair. Pick one member from your club and assign them the responsibility to earn a Literacy Award for the club.
2. Identify community needs. This can easily be done in concert with the Special Needs Superintendent of your local school board.
3. Develop a literacy plan. Send a copy of the details to of the plan to the Chair Dennis Bayley to [dennis.bayley@icloud.com](mailto:dennis.bayley@icloud.com) or [michael@maloneymethod.com](mailto:michael@maloneymethod.com).
4. For literacy month, March, the club's speaker program should include a speaker on a literacy topic. Your local library most likely has a literacy project that they would love to share.
5. Report progress on literacy related projects the District literacy chair on a regular basis. That could easily be accomplished by e-mail.

Now that does not sound like a stretch, does it?

**Completion of these 5 simple tasks will qualify a club for a District Literacy Award. Completion of one of these tasks will satisfy the literacy responsibility for this year.**

**For an award at the distinction level an additional 5 items must be completed from the following list.**

6. Obtain media coverage for a literacy related project. Write a news release and send it to your local paper

7. Participate in an Early Childhood literacy project.

8. Report literacy matters on a regular basis to all club members. A quick report from the podium should handle that

9. Arrange and promote a fund-raising activity to finance a literacy program. Send a cheque to the Amarok Society; sponsor a student in a CALS project; support the Bookworm project by sponsoring a foster child; donate to Imagination Library. There are lots of options, choose one.

10. Participate in a program to meet community literacy needs, especially those involving visible minority groups.

11. Invite club members to participate in a hands-on literacy activity.

12. Participate in literacy related workshops, or conference break-out sessions organized by the District.

13. Participate in an International or Canada-wide literacy initiative.

14. Inform the general public about the Literacy problem in Canada. Use your Facebook Page as an easy way to do this.

15. Actively participate in a local school board literacy initiative such as Class or school-wide Spelling Bee or Readathon. You will have a ton of fun.