District 7070 Literacy Newsletter

Issue # 7 – January, 2016

Chairman's Message

As we ring in a new year, it is a good time to review our plans for the second half of the Rotary year. Among those plans should be a checklist of tasks yet to be completed this Rotary year within our club. Perhaps your club has not yet checked the 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.

Recent Events

The District 7070 Literacy Committee has temporarily lost the services of Tom Reed, previously of the Pickering Rotary club. Tom has been involved with First Nations initiatives. He will be working with the Ministry of Education three days a week. We wish Tom the best of luck in his new duties and look forward to having him back in Rotary soon.

Chairman Dennis Bayley will be away for a few weeks in Europe. Questions and concerns can be forwarded to the Newsletter Editor, Michael Maloney
michael@maloneymethod.com

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

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, there are 5 basic requirements. They are outlined below with some suggestions.

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 or 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.

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.