

Literacy Recognition Awards – 2013

The District Literacy Committee's mission is to support District Club literacy efforts and to inspire clubs to be more involved in effective literacy projects.

Illiteracy is an international scourge of the first magnitude. The ABCs of Rotary reminds us of the scope of this challenge: "An estimated one billion people – one-fourth of the world's adult population – are unable to read." Moreover, according to a long-awaited national research study, 1 out of 7 adults living in the United States is unable to read this story.

The District 6440 Literacy Committee celebrates District Club efforts in literacy by giving *Excellence in Literacy Awards* to clubs in the district that demonstrate an involvement in literacy activities. Awards will be presented at the District Conference.

District 6440 Clubs that participated in literacy projects in 2012/ 2013 are listed below:

CLUBS WITH 30 MEMBERS OR LESS

Mount Prospect/Arlington Heights Sunrise **winner small club*

Contact: Linda Cesario, linda_cesario@yahoo.com

Cultivating the Roots of Community Literacy: Throughout the year fifteen volunteers tutored 54 adults and 140 children. The Club also donated \$2000 to Read to Learn, a one-on-one adult tutorial program held at 13 local sites. In addition, it contributed more than 300 books and assorted learning supplies to Kids on Track (a 6 week summer program for more than 200 children of Arlington International Racetrack employees) and the Women's and Children's Center, both programs sponsored by High School District 214 Community Education.

Illinois Beach Rotary Club

Contact: Pat Hodge phodge@whsd1.org

Summer Reading Fun: First grade students from each elementary feeder school districts not at grade level at the end of the year are invited to attend a six week summer school reading program. The goal is to bring the children's reading level up to grade level. The program is taught by a first grade teacher in the district. Rotary pays a stipend to the teacher so the children can attend free; Rotary purchases incentive materials for the teacher to use (stickers, charts, bookmarks). The Club provides a Summer Fun Reading t-shirt for all the children.

Mundelein/Vernon Hills

Contact: Jeff Fougousse jefff@vhparkdistrict.org

The Dictionary Project: Club members distributed 1100 dictionaries to all 3rd grade students in public/private elementary schools within Mundelein and Vernon Hills school boundaries. The Club members share information about Rotary and its various community projects. The Club also donated funds to the Center.

St. Charles Breakfast Rotary Club

Contact: Ann Richards arich4@sbcglobal.net

Trivia Bee for Literacy: The Club helps literacy volunteers of Fox Valley raise financial support to help adults improve their English language skills. As a result, adults gain the skills they need to be better workers, more engaged parents and more involved community members. The non-profit organization trains volunteers as tutors and matches them with adult students one to one. Lessons are tailored for each adult student so the adult meets his or her goals. The organization served 311 adult students in 2012. The Trivia Bee raised \$400 for the Literacy Volunteers.

Rolling Meadows Rotary Club

Contact: Barbie Rothbauer rothbaub@ccsdis.net

Read o Rama: A book drive is held in the community to collect used and new books which are sold at minimal prices to the elementary school community. During the sale, guest readers share stories. Each Club member works with 3 businesses to promote and collect books for the sale. High school students create commercials for selected books.

Woodstock Morning Rotary

Contact: Joy Kottra kottra@sbcglobal.net

Storytelling to Writing: 300 elementary students, teachers and parents will learn about storytelling as a strategy for improved writing skills, so that more children will write for the State Young Authors Conference. The guide for the program is resident storyteller and Emmy winning story teller/author Jim May. He will meet with students once a month, start a lunch time storytelling club and support an afterschool writing group.

CLUBS WITH 31 OR MORE MEMBERS

Libertyville Sunrise Rotary Club *winner large club

Contact: Bob Zamor bzamor@aol.com

Rotary Reads: For the last 7 years, the Club has funded book purchases for classroom teachers and given 30 minute reading session by Rotarians for all 1st through 3rd grade children in Libertyville and Green Oaks Elementary School Districts. The program reaches 50 classrooms and about 1,000 children. This year it was decided to extend the program to at risk students in neighboring school districts. The Club raised over \$14,000 to start this extended program. Since fall, the Club has been working closely with the **Waukegan and North Chicago Rotary Clubs** to conduct Rotary Reads program in their school districts. The Waukegan program reached 91 classrooms and 1,979 students; the Waukegan Rotary donated \$3000 for books and bookplates acknowledging the Rotary program. Waukegan Park District added \$1,000 in books and 103 teacher bags; a total of 2,301 books were distributed. The Club also worked with the North Chicago RC to conduct a North Chicago Rotary Reads. One school completed the program in November, 2012, with a district wide program scheduled for April, 2013.

Sharing this award (at the request of the Libertyville Club) with **Libertyville Sunrise** is the **Waukegan Rotary Club** and the **North Chicago Rotary Club**.

Highland Park/Highwood

Contact: Fred Orkin fred@fredorkin.com

Highland Park High School Financial Literacy Program: Offered as an after school program for high school students, an hour, once a week course during "homework club". 12 Rotarians with professional credentials in banking, law, business, engineering, finance, information technology and on-line job recruiting lead the seven sessions in the fall. Some sessions were held at area banks, a Police Station, an auto dealership and City Hall. A local bank donated \$2000 for a scholarship fund and each student was offered a 'banking scholarship if all sessions were attended; students were encouraged to open bank accounts and start to establish their credit history.

Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Rotary

Contact: Kaye Grabbe, Literacy Chair, kgrabbe@lfl.alibrary.com

Dictionary Project: For 3 years, the Club has provided age appropriate dictionaries to 3rd graders at a Highwood school; this year it was Oak Terrace School.

JOIN THE DISTRICT LITERACY COMMITTEE

Interested in working to help promote literacy activities in our district? Meetings are relatively brief and conveniently scheduled at the Schaumburg Public Library.

With more help, there's no telling what we might be able to achieve in improving literacy!

Contact: Kaye Grabbe, Chair of the Rotary District 6440 Literacy Committee, kgrabbe@lfl.alibrary.com

AWARD WINNING PROJECTS THIS YEAR

In 2012-2013, 9 clubs submitted their literacy projects to the District 6440 Literacy Committee. 4 clubs were chosen to receive Excellence in Literacy Awards:

Small Clubs (30 members and under)

- Illinois Beach Sunrise – Summer Reading Fun
- **Mount Prospect/Arlington Heights Sunrise** Cultivating the Roots of Community Literacy ***Excellence in Literacy Award***
- Mundelein/Vernon Hills – The Dictionary Project
- Rolling Meadows – Read o Rama
- St. Charles Breakfast- Trivia Bee for Literacy
- Woodstock Morning – Storytelling to Writing

Large Clubs (More than 30 members)

- Highland Park – Highland Park High School Financial Literacy Program
- Lake Forest/Lake Bluff - Dictionary Project
- **Libertyville Sunrise** – Rotary Reads (**Waukegan and North Chicago Rotary Clubs**) Rotary Reads ***Excellence in Literacy Award***

Reach Out and Read (Reachoutandread.org) — In fall of 2009 the District 6440 Literacy Committee voted to adopt Reach Out and Read by providing information and presentations to Clubs who wanted to know more. Reach Out and Read, a project of the American Academy of Pediatrics Illinois Chapter, trains doctors and nurses to talk to parents about the importance of reading aloud to children from six months to five years of age. The children receive a new book to take home at each of their annual check-ups, and clinic waiting rooms are transformed into literacy-rich areas with volunteer readers modeling techniques of reading aloud. **This year, information about doing a Read-A-Thon to raise funds for your local school and Reach Out and Read, will be available on the District web site, on the Literacy web page.**

