

Youth Services Committee Report – February 8, 2017.

RYLA:

RYLA is a movement within Rotary District 7780 that goes beyond the confines of a four-day experience. There is a bond to service connected by increased confidence that propels the individuals that are associated with RYLA into current moments of creating positive change. RYLA is a year long and even a lifetime endeavor. 2017 represents the 27th group of campers that will participate.

2016, the week immediately following, a group of 10 RYLA facilitators conducted a mini RYLA day for two groups of teenagers with the Friends Forever Program in NH. RYLA staff worked with mixed groups from Northern Ireland and Israel on team building and communication processes. This was the first time that the Friends Forever Program allowed for the mixing of students from different cultures. The day was an incredible growth experience for all involved.

During the Summer of 2016, RYLA staff came together for a few events. Two major service projects were completed, including assisting at a food bank and cleaning up the grounds at the Seacoast Science Center in RYE NH. Summer training was held in August to continue with building the team and helping to prepare the staff for their upcoming transitions.

The fall brings a time of planning. Staff actively participate in many ways. Committees are formed to build marketing material, curriculum development, physical plant development of the rope courses, scheduling and much more. The team gathered at Christmas to renew bonds and celebrate the RYLA spirit. The movement and commitment to spreading and growing the values of RYLA are alive.

The turning of the calendar into a new year means that the countdown begins. New staff applications start to arrive in the mail. Planning committees meet, and Rotary engages in the process of finding 144 campers to participate in RYLA 2017. RYLA team members look for ways to be involved and ensure that the program continues.

RYLA District 7780 is an actual movement that has made a tremendous difference in Rotary's commitment to Youth Services. We have the capacity for 144 campers, anything fewer means lose the opportunity to have the greatest positive impact on our youth and our communities. RYLA build Interact, Rotaract, and overall Youth Development for all of District 7780. The calendar has turned the countdown to RYLA 2017 is on. Camp begins Sunday, June 25th at Camp Hinds.

Interact:

Information for this year's "Feeding the Hope" Interact/New Generations Conference. It's going to be a good one! Some items to note are below:

- ❖ Date: Saturday, March 25 – 8am – 2pm
- ❖ Location: Scarborough High School – 11 Municipal Drive, Scarborough ME
- ❖ Keynote Speaker: Travis Roy (his bio is with the information/invitation)
- ❖ Registration Deadline: Please register ASAP so we can plan accordingly. March 10 is the deadline for registration and payment to be in the mail to Kevin, as noted on registration form.
- ❖ Fee: Students and Advisors are \$10. Others and Rotarians are \$15.
- ❖ We are asking each attendee to bring 1 or 2 canned goods.
- ❖ Address from District Governor Marge Barker.
- ❖ As noted from the evaluations last year there will be breakout sessions in place of the panel discussion this year. We really do read them.

Rotaract: Nothing exciting happened at USM. Working on St Joseph's College.

Youth Exchange:

We are still working on getting the South Portland high school girl a sponsor. Looks like the Portland Club will sponsor her. We have a student from Bath but the Club has not yet found a member to be a RYE chair or counselor at the Club level. We have a new committee member, Ogy Nickolic, a former RYE student in 1998 at Saco Bay. He recently joined the Portland Club and attended the ESSEX Conference last month. The Quebec Carnival trip is this weekend February 11th and the current Inbound and Rotex student from Bath will be attending.

Literacy:

Only seven 4-Way Test contestants last year. We will promote the 4-Way Test Speech Contest at the Interact/New Generation Conference. Kevin agreed to have us a table in the Convention Display area.

The date of the submission deadline (April 15th) and semi-final (April 29th) is approaching quickly, and we need to decide on a location for the semi-final. We think the Purpoodock Club in Cape Elizabeth would be a very good location for such an event. I think it was held at 5PM or so before the regular Club Wednesday meeting. Will update when finalized.

