January 25, 2023

Dear Rotary Club President:

As the 2023 Rotary Youth Leadership Conference Chairman, I am writing to introduce myself and to promote the 2023 RYLA Conference. This year's event is held at Lowden State Park, in Oregon, Illinois, on May 5-7, 2023. The program has been developed for high school students interested in developing their leadership skills to the fullest!

In today's society, competition, greed, and a sense of entitlement seem to challenge common sense. Students feel the pressure in many ways: the need to get good grades, get into a reputable college, and align themselves with the right associates. The list goes on and on. Is there a need to change this mentality, and where does it lie? Students will be challenged Friday night as they participate in a discussion on embracing leadership from an ethical perspective, and it will change how they view "what is right."

Are our youth getting enough help learning about proper social skills, including social etiquette at interviews, using technology safely, social manners, and other behavioral patterns that help our youth become successful in life? On Saturday, RYLA welcomes Bill Carlson, a consultant who prepares our students for a successful future.

I am very excited about this year's programming as we attempt to engage our students in lessons that will help them with teamwork, introspection, group communication, decision-making, and other valuable social skills needed to live productive lives. I am asking each club president to help with this year's program by working with your RYLA club chair to attract students for this year's conference. Please remember April 15, 2023, is the deadline for receiving applications, as payments cannot be reimbursed due to cancelations. I have included brochures describing the program and applications for the students.

Having been a part of the RYLA weekend for over 30 years, I can personally attest to the quality and productivity of this program for our youth!

Sincerely,

Dave Diamond, RYLA Chairperson