

LITERACY NEWSLETTER ZONE 22 (WEST)



Issue #2 AUGUST 2008

Editor—PDG Ross White (D 5020)

GEARING UP FOR ACTION

EDITORIAL—PDG ROSS WHITE

As we come to the close of August and to summer, I expect that clubs will be into new activities. There will be a move from BBQ's and picnics to fundraising and member involvement. My club is preparing for its major book sale. If you are on Vancouver island at Thanksgiving, join us!

Each club is expected to set literacy goals. District coordinators are requested to promote this with club literacy coordinators and to keep in touch with what is happening.

One of the **key responsibilities** of the district literacy coordinator is to send reports to the Zone Coordinator (that is me) and to promote literacy activities. I am also asking that stories of literacy activities be sent to me. These I can publish in this newsletter and also send to the North American coordinator.

From my experience, one of the key difficulties is to get feedback from club coordinators and therefore districts coordinators. Are newsletters read, cir-



culated and information followed up? There is an extensive "netherland" out there I sense filled with unread Rotary news! Hopefully literacy is not part of it!

Please:

1. promote literacy goals
2. promote literacy activities
3. send me district stories and projects

With a focus on literacy projects in our communities and in the world, we can **"Make Dreams Real"**

PDG Ross White

Zone 22 (West) Literacy Resource Coordinator

"In the case of good books, the point is not how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you."

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DISTRICT GOALS - ARE YOURS SET????

RI LITERACY GOALS FOR 2008-2009



The 2008-09 Literacy Resource Group aims to raise awareness of literacy issues by encouraging:

- Every Rotary club to undertake a literacy project either at home or abroad;
- Every district to carry out a literacy seminar;
- Every district conference, Zone Institute, PETS, and District Assembly to include a literacy component;
- Every district governor to present a district literacy award;
- Every Rotary club to participate in International Literacy Day on September 8, 2007 and Rotary Literacy Month in March 2008;
- The seeking of opportunities for alliances with other organizations; and
- Every club to devote one meeting to the topic of the role of literacy in reducing child mortality and use the meeting to identify a literacy project to address the issue.

REMINDER—INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY
September 8, 2008,

WHAT ARE SOME POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES?



- **Have a special speaker**
- **Honour a citizen who has made a significant contribution to literacy**
- **Visit a school and read stories**
- **Distribute books to a school library**
- **Publish an article in the local media and tell about Rotary and literacy**

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION SUPPORTS LITERACY

Last year I visited Sunyani, Ghana on a planning mission with assistance from the Rotary Foundation's Volunteer Service Grant. Part of my focus was on a public primary school. When I toured the school, I became more acutely aware of how fortunate we are in the resources we have in our schools. Locally, there never seem to be sufficient funds and libraries are often critically short of financial resources. Yet, in comparison, we live in the lap of luxury.

The school I visited is a situation where students share texts. Consequently, texts are not taken home and there is little opportunity for extra assistance. Teachers store limited resources

land clubs are the international partners with the new Sunyani Central Rotary Club as the host club. Through this funding, literacy opportunities will be improved for these students. New and additional texts will be bought. A library will be started and storage facilities will be improved. There will also be the purchase of computers, an important literacy aspect.

I convey this incident to emphasize the importance of The Rotary Foundation and giving to the Annual Program. This is not an isolated description. These circumstances and similar ones reinforce the importance of donations to the Rotary Foundation and a commitment to literacy.

R. White, Rotary Club of Nanaimo



Metal chest for book and supply storage

in metal chests or wooden cabinets. The school has no library. This is a situation that is duplicated in many African and developing countries.

Again, with the assistance of The Rotary Foundation, a matching grant has been approved for Sunyani Municipal Primary School. Rotary clubs in Nanaimo and other Vancouver Mid Is-



Wooden storage cabinet at back of classroom

LITERACY DEFINITIONS

When you ask for project examples from your districts, be sure to emphasize the fact that this year we are defining literacy more broadly than in the past.

Here are the definitions as presented on page 9 of the LEADERSHIP MANUAL:

1. Literacy defined as the skills mastered by the learner

a. Basic Literacy Skills (reading, writing and numeracy);



b. Functional Literacy Skills (specialized knowledge for working, living and getting along with others e.g. character literacy, financial literacy, health literacy, vocational literacy, citizenship literacy, parenting literacy)

2. Literacy defined in terms of the general outcomes for adults:

- a. Productive workers
- b. Good citizens
- c. Good parents
- d. Servant leaders (as exemplified in our Object of Rotary)
- e. Self actualized adults.

3. Literacy defined in terms of the challenges faced by different age groups:

- a. Newborns and early childhood
- b. Kindergarten and elementary school ages
- c. Secondary school ages
- d. Post secondary school young adults
- e. Adults
- f. Elderly



4. The personal and community problems that might be addressed by literacy projects:

- a. Children and adults left behind because they can't read, write or compute
- b. Children left behind for financial reasons (One solution: scholarships)
- c. Communities with school systems that are falling behind for financial reasons or because of an inadequate commitment to excellence or because of inadequate support for and recognition of teachers.
- d. Individuals or target groups that are suffering from narrowly defined illiteracies which prevent them from earning a good living, being a good parent, being a good citizen or being a good leader.

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MAKE CONTACT WITH CLUBS

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