

26 January 2017

Minutes of the Youth/ Education Committee Meeting

Attendance: Todd, Bunmi, Marge, Shannon, BC

- Very enjoyable meeting, lively discussion, various points of view, respectful dialogue and a great spirit of cooperation. It was discussed that the face to face time makes the meeting more meaningful and a richer experience.
- YEX: Lively discussion around the status of the YEX. We need to review the minutes from the board and understand if the board voted to totally abandon the YEX mission or elected not to support the request from District to support a student.
 - It was expressed that membership seems not to have an appetite to support YEX.
 - BC mentioned that YEX boils down to 2 things:
 - Funding
 - Host Families
 - Shannon pointed out that our membership consists of households too old for children or homes with small children. We may need to wait till those with small children age into the more appropriate school age kids. (aside: it was mentioned at another meeting that families with little kids tend to be easier for the YEX kids to fold into, because the YEX kids are learning the language much like smaller children.)
 - After some discussion about the challenges with the school system regarding exchange programs, Shannon offered to canvas the private school connections and determine their interest level. She will ask Janene to research the desire and support of the public schools. The idea is to first determine the local appetite for Rotary YEX kids and this program.
 - Once this work is complete, the next step will be to find out the level of enthusiasm from our club's membership to support this need. Again, we need to ensure the club will provide both funds and a means to recruit host families. If the board and membership feel YEX is too hard and not pursued, then the issue is settled and the club needs to be able to articulate to Rotary why we cannot support one of Rotary's signature programs. We all agreed it is OK if we don't wish to support it; we need to be able to articulate why. If the board and club wish to support YEX, the next steps will be how much we budget, how we line up host families, how we ensure the club is aware of the work the organization is doing.
- Rangers
 - Todd provided a brief on Ranger efforts so far.
 - Rangers are using the sign up genius site very well. We have more non Rotarian interest in helping.
 - It was discussed that non Rotarian Rangers should be introduced to Rotary. Todd and Marge will get together to determine the best way to do this. A possible recruiting source for new Rotarians.
 - Todd's Ahmedabad office and YE Smith kids will once again visit via VTC from Duke CE. Details forthcoming.
 - BC mentioned that another club in India is very interested in doing a similar thing.

- BC also mentioned that it would be good to provide materials to the students about all the opportunities that Rotary may provide young people – YEX, RYLA, Rotaract, Interact, scholarships, etc.
- RYLA
 - Todd presented the notes from Chris who could not attend the meeting.
 - 12 delegates chosen; 8 sponsored by our club, 4 sponsored by SW Durham
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 - No other club budgeted for transport (and we can't foot the whole bill) so
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 - **members of our club will be responsible for shuttling the kids back and forth Friday April 21 and Sunday April 23, 2017**
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 - Attached is a list of delegates – note that NCSSM dominated this year. Other years, other schools have dominated.
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 - The selection committee of the district was having an energetic discussion about ways to spread the wealth. Others were inclined to only select the best, period. Thoughts welcome.
 - We will begin asking for volunteers to drive the kids to Camp Oak Hill in April.
 - Discussion followed that the club membership physically sees, YEX kids, Scholarship recipients, but we never see the RYLA kids. Perhaps there is a way to get the kids to come to lunch sometime. Good for the membership and good introduction for the kids.
- Scholarships
 - Marge presented that the DPAC event yielded about \$1500 enough for the support of the Brown Family Scholarship at Emily K.
 - Poinsettia sales netted \$1700.
 - The caliber of student from Student U and the relationship with Student U is far superior to what we had experienced in the past. So far, this has been a good partnership.
- Education Committee Future
 - Todd is considering some new roles in Rotary.
 - This would mean some changes in the management of the Education Committee.
 - We need to find new leadership, need to define roles and opportunities.
 - It was mentioned that next month's meeting should focus on this topic.
 - How viable and important is the Education Committee?
 - How should we be organized?
 - How can we generate more interest in joining?
 - Is this a good place for new members?
- Next meeting will be Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 5:30 at Lucky Strike (310 Blackwell St).
 - To foster participation, I will send out a Blue Jeans connection. This will set the meeting up like a webinar. Look for something on the next invite. Just an experiment, remember there is no substitute for face to face.

Below is the excerpt from the 19 December 2016 Board minutes regarding YEX. The board was not willing to support YEX at this time.

EDUCATION/YOUTH COMMITTEE

BC said the District is asking for our Club's answer very soon about whether we will sponsor an in-bound student. The District would also like us to sponsor an outbound student, though it is possible this student might be sponsored by another club.

Discussion:

- We don't seem to have the commitment for the program.
- The Club needs to be fully behind this program. This is a significant effort and can't be left to just the YEX/Education Committee members. We need 3-4 host families and others willing to take student on outings, etc.
- We can't commit to hosting inbound students without knowing that we can fulfill a commitment.
- This gets back to our earlier question: What do we want to focus on?
- There are many exchange programs available in Durham. How does this one fit? Is that part of the problem?
- The Board approved the following response to the District: We do not have a roster of host families to sustain a program, so we can't participate at this time.