

## Education Committee Meeting Minutes of 23 Feb 2017

In attendance:

Todd Taylor, Emily Oliver, Michel Tharp, Don Stanger, Marge Nordstrom, Brady Surlles, Shannon Leskin, David Reese

Met in Duke CE Building and on line via Blue Jeans.

1. Great Meeting.
2. AREA BUSINESS: Reviewed the topics from Area Youth Committee meeting.
  - a. YEX was a big topic for the meeting. The area has an outbound student and therefore will be taking on an inbound student. The clubs are aware that we are taking a break on YEX.
    - i. A general ask was made for host families. A Brazilian male student is coming, they have one host family already, need 2 more. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please share the attached information sheet.
    - ii. Joyce will reach out to Shannon who is working on our needs assessment and connect her with Theresa who is working on the same topic with DPS. This is a great example of how committee work can help make our time better spend, by connecting folks working on the same issue.
  - b. RYLA
    - i. Need Drivers. Chris keeps making the announcement.
  - c. Interact
    - i. A request has been made to get 2 people to volunteer from our club to serve as advisors for an Interact Club. Joyce is merely looking for volunteers. We will announce this. Please see if anyone you know has interest.
    - ii. Ask around.
  - d. 4 Way Test Contest
    - i. The area is looking for a new Champion to manage the 4 Way Test Essay contest.
    - ii. Ask around.
3. CLUB Business:
  - a. Scholarships:
    - i. Meg offered the following input: *As for the scholarship program. The change to announce is that now the four scholarships for Student U and the one scholarship for Emily K students are all \$1,000 year one and \$1,000 year two (subject to GPA and enrollment requirements) for a total of \$2,000 for each student recipient. As per IRS requirements, the organizations select the recipients and Triangle Foundation sends the funds directly to the organization which in turn sends it to the college to cover only billable expenses (tuition, room and board, etc.). This change brings all our scholarships into parity with each other, and the two year component helps to facilitate completion as many colleges front load scholarships freshman year and pull back the second year. Research shows that when student's complete two years at a four year college*

*they are more likely to ultimately graduate. Marge and I have this running like a well oiled machine and communication between the agencies is strong.*

- ii. Discussion followed to clarify that the Student U funds come from Triangle Community Foundation and the Brown Family Scholarship funds are raised via fundraisers and augmented with TCF funds if needed.
  - iii. Marge also wanted to make sure it was clear that Rotary has no involvement in the selection process. We simply give the funds to the 501C3 organizations and they manage everything else.
  - iv. She further reported that we are very close to a signed MOU with Emily K. Some final details to work out.
- b. RYLA Drivers needed. Chris reported that he is all set for the April transportation of kids to and from Camp Oak Hill.
- c. YEX – Shannon reported on her research into the needs and desires of independent schools reveals that some schools leverage other resources for foreign exchange students. For other independent schools, the biggest issue with exchange students is paying the tuition. She did clarify with Essex (the Rotary governing body for YEX) that Rotary YEX students do not have to go to public schools only.
- i. Shannon will work with Todd to produce a recommendation letter to our board.
    - 1. Bottom line: the recommendation is to support YEX efforts from the outside. Our club should not sponsor outbound or inbound students. We should provide support as best we can. Support can come in the form of providing outings for students, ask membership for host family interest, and invite YEX students to our clubs activities and efforts. The club should not take on the responsibility of a YEX student.
- d. Interact – discussion surrounded the ongoing request that our club furnish Interact Advisors and support an Interact club.
- i. It was brought up that we don't do a good job in communicating the ask. Most members are unfamiliar with all the responsibilities and liabilities associated with being an Advisor.
  - ii. Recommended that we conduct a short presentation on what Interact is and what an Advisor would be expected to do.
  - iii. It was discussed that high school clubs are only successful with a strong faculty advocate. Without "boots on the ground" in the hallways, students are not motivated to go hear "someone talk about something they don't have a clue about."
  - iv. Finally. We discussed that we support a strong fledgling Rotaract Club and we should not dilute efforts too much. We should continue to focus on the Rotaract Club.
- e. CART
- i. Brady mentioned that we will have a big push for CART bucket challenge to make our goal. We will have a paper money drive at the next meeting followed by a coin drive in March.
- f. 4 Way Test

- i. Area is looking for a champion. Our discussion centered on the need for a strong school advocate. Again, someone inside the schools pushing these initiatives. Our club will likely support but not lead this.

g. Reading Rangers

- i. Todd reported that this year we have some successes growing into the community. Estimated 30% of the Rangers this year are non-Rotarians. EDCI has funneled a few Rangers to the program and some of those Ranger have brought along friends. So that is encouraging. We have 191 slots of the 1308 available filled with efforts of 20 Rangers.
- ii. Rangers spin off efforts like the Spelling Bee judges were well attended and well received. Big success this year.
- iii. VTC is scheduled for 17 March at 0930 at Lucky Strike. We will have a Duke dance professor from India give a presentation. Hopefully this will resonate with the students from India and NC. Dr. Shah is from Ahmedabad, where the Red Bricks School kids in India are located. Hopefully, this local girl done good angle will provide a positive bridge between the cultures. Todd is working with Mark Lazenby to pitch to the papers. All are invited.

4. Education Committee Viability

- a. Some rich discussion evolved around the future of the Education Committee.
  - i. It was agreed that the committee is valuable from the point of view of coordination and communication within the Club. Consolidating input from all the education related efforts and presenting those needs to the board was deemed valuable.
  - ii. Leveraging technology such as Blue Jeans seems to be a positive way to continue to communicate. It was agreed to continue month to month meetings with a tech component.
  - iii. It was brought up that in terms of assistance to various efforts; the committee does not provide much value. Again, the purpose of coordinating, communicating, and reporting was mentioned as valuable.
  - iv. Organization
    - 1. It was determined that we should re-structure as follows.
      - a. Chairman -
        - i. Responsibility
          - 1. Run the meetings
          - 2. Be the liaison with the board
      - b. Co-Chairman
        - i. Responsibility
          - 1. Coordinate information to be communicated internally.
            - a. Set Meeting Agenda
            - b. Record Minutes

- c. Work with Chair on what goes to the board
- c. Communications Person
  - i. Coordinate external communications
    - 1. Press
    - 2. Get Photo coverage of events
    - 3. Send information to Club communications team
  - 2. Need to begin to find volunteers for these roles.
    - a. Todd offered to continue to host meetings in Lucky, leverage technology and remain on the committee as a member as long as possible.
- 5. NEXT MEETING will be 30 March 2017 at Duke CE, 310 Blackwell Street beginning at 5:30 PM.

**\*\*\*PARTICIPANT INFORMATION\*\*\***

To join the meeting on a computer or mobile phone: <https://bluejeans.com/301429490?src=calendarLink>

Todd has invited you to a video meeting.

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