

September is Literacy and Education Month!

Hello All – I'm Lynne Edelman Faimalie, serving as the District 6950 Literacy Coordinator this year. **September is Literacy month** in Rotary and September 8th is International Literacy Day. Basic Education and Literacy is one of Rotary's six areas of focus. Rotary defines **functional literacy** as the level of reading and writing skills necessary to participate fully in everyday life.

However, you choose to define literacy, I think you'll agree the literacy is an empowerment tool that can increase a person's health, income, and relationship with the world. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) says "The uses of literacy for the exchange of knowledge are constantly evolving, along with advances in technology. From the Internet to text messaging, the ever-wider availability of communication makes for greater social and political participation. A literate community is a dynamic community, one that exchanges ideas and engages in debate."

In our district there are many ways the Rotary Clubs and individual Rotarians are involved in literacy activities such as dictionary distributions in elementary school, tutoring, scholarships, robotic club sponsors, community book distributions, adult literacy volunteers, family literacy dinners at school, and other projects. **Some additional ideas/projects your club might like to consider** are providing thesauruses to 6th graders, supporting increased technology and media access for low income students, offering scholarships for GED fees to struggling adults, and sending a vocational training team to another country (there is a strong need for Special Education training in developing countries).

If your club would like to know more about literacy or would like additional suggestions about literacy projects please email me. I am also available to speak to clubs in our district. One last thing - if your club has a literacy chairperson, could you please email that name, email and phone number to me?

Thanks- I look forward to meeting more of you at your clubs this year.

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Until next Monday, keep **"Doing Good, Having Fun!"**
Your Friend in Rotary Service,

Mikey

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Rotary District 6950
Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties
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