



## 5060 District-Wide Literacy News Bulletin

ROTARY IMPROVES LITERACY AROUND THE WORLD TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS



### SEPTEMBER 2010

This is the first issue of the Rotary 5060 District "*Literacy News Bulletin*." Rotary International declares that the three major focuses of Rotary for successful sustainability are Literacy/Education, Water/Sanitation and Health/Hunger. This "*Literacy News Bulletin*" will keep us informed about activities for Literacy/Education. It is being circulated throughout District 5060 in order to present literacy resources and to share the successful literacy stories in our district. Ideas and stories can inspire all Rotary Clubs to do similar literacy projects so that every 5060 Rotarian can say that he or she improved literacy this year and thus improved the quality of life of our fellow human beings.

The 2010-2011 "*Literacy News Bulletin*" will come out each semester. We are presenting a monthly calendar for the year including project suggestions that are based on the Rotary International Theme of the Month. By doing one of these activities, your Rotary Club's literacy committee can complete a successful project - and honor the International Theme of the Month. Literacy projects ideas are presented for local projects, national projects and international projects. Projects with local libraries and schools are included. Some projects require time and some require money - others require both time and money! All projects strengthen literacy skills!

The literacy project your club selects may be a project for adult literacy, delivering books to children, or collecting books for distribution to an impoverished country. It can be a dictionary project, a poetry writing contest for the community, or involve Rotary Readers who read stories to children. The options are exciting and numerous. This bulletin will help supply even more ideas. The first months of this Rotary year are now history – but there is still plenty of time to start a new literacy project for this year.

**"ONCE UPON A TIME"** ...our literacy story of the future is that on **June 4, 2011** there will be a "**Literacy Workshop**" at the **5060 District Rotary Conference in Ellensburg**. More details about the conference and the Literacy Workshop will be available after the first of the year

In coming issues of the "*Literacy News Bulletin*" we will have exciting stories to share with you about Rotarians making a difference for families in both local and global communities.

*We wish you a literacy-filled 2010 & 2011!*

#### Project Chairs:

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- Judy Backlund – Ellensburg Morning Rotary Club – 509-963-1715; backlundpj@elltel.net



## *Rotary International Monthly Themes & Literacy Project Ideas*

### **September: Theme: New Generations Month**

- **Local Project – Backpacks for Literacy** – Assemble backpacks for deserving students in local schools and distribute them through the counselors during the first week of school. Include an age-appropriate dictionary and other supplies students need to be prepared and successful in school.
- **National Project – “Every Child Ready to Read at Your Library”** - Join together with your local public library and the National Library Association in sponsoring a month of activities for the national “Every Child Ready to Read” effort. Encourage parents as a child’s first teacher. Weekly reading hours can be arranged at the library and “Early Learning” brochures and pamphlets from the National Literacy Institute can be distributed. Encourage participants to sign up for a library card because September is “Library Card Sign-Up Month!” [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)
- **International Project - International Literacy Day Baby** – Give the first baby born in your city on September 8 a baby backpack filled with books and a gift card to a book-a-month program or to the local book store.

### **October: Theme: Vocational Service Month**

- **Local Project – Inmate Literacy Support** – Provide books, tapes, book CDs and other literacy supplies for inmates who are serving time in the nearest jail or prison offer inspiration and encouragement.
- **National Project - Reading Tree** – Contact the Reading Tree non-profit organization at [www.readingtree.org](http://www.readingtree.org) to set up a book recycling program. Reading Tree has two missions. First, they keep books from contributing to the saturation of our nation's landfills. Secondly, they collect books from families who no longer want them, and deliver them to children, families, schools and libraries in desperate need. October is a closet-cleaning month and great time to collect the community’s cast-off books before they are sent to the dump. Set up book collection sites throughout the city and gather books together for a pick up by the Reading Tree.
- **International Project - Sudan Literacy Project** – In 2011, you can join or assist with phase 2 and 3 of the Southern Sudan Literacy Project of Training the Trainers. Citizens who are returning from the refugee camps to their homes in Southern Sudan will be trained to be teachers and to assist in the rebuilding of their civil-war devastated communities. This project is sponsored by Ellensburg Morning Club and Judy Backlund can be contacted for more information.

### **November: Theme: Rotary Foundation Month & World Interact Week**

- **Local Project –Teens: Resources and Motivation** - Literacy usually requires resources and motivation. Being a teenager isn’t easy. Being a teenager who does not speak or read the local language fluently is even harder. Help lift the barriers of language isolation by partnering with a classroom of teen students who need books and motivation. Conference with the teacher about what Rotary members can do to motivate and to build a bridge of educational opportunity for these students. On your club website, post links to helpful literacy education businesses in your town.
- **National Project – Junior Achievement for National Advancement!** Participate in organizing your club’s participation with the Junior Achievement educational program in your area. This program

involves reading, writing, speaking and listening as well as social studies and economics. Your club can follow the involvement of district clubs on the District 5060 website beginning this fall.

- **International Project – Room to Read** – Room to Read seeks to transform the lives of millions of children in developing countries by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education. Rotarians can help them build and fill “Reading Rooms” and schools in developing countries. This program focuses on developing literacy skills and reading among primary school children and supporting girls to complete secondary school. There are volunteer and fundraising opportunities with Room to Read. More information is available on their website: [www.roomtoread.org](http://www.roomtoread.org)

### **December: Theme: Rotary Family Month**

- **Local Project - Book Fair is a Family Affair** – Organize a book fair and include guest readings by influential community personalities. The Governor, mayor, police chief, sheriff, teachers, coaches and firefighters can be readers for the Family Affair Book Fair. Prizes are awarded and families are able to choose books together from a local or national book mart. Everyone gets tips for encouraging the reading habit, working together on reading, and selecting books to build personal libraries. If possible, distribute customized ROTARY READS bookmarks!
- **National Project – My Own Book** – Your Rotary Club adopts a classroom and organizes literacy days and book readings at the school. Club members get to know the students and do a survey for each child on which book they would like to own. Members each then network with other local literacy projects to secure new books so that each child in the room can be presented with a new book of choice. The book is the child’s to take home. This is a sample of a project found on the website [www.myownbook.net](http://www.myownbook.net).
- **International Project – Heritage Hat Day** - Promote diversity of membership in clubs membership by having a “Heritage Hat Day” at a club meeting. Encourage each member to bring a hat depicting their own cultural heritage. Members can be encouraged to take the hats home and talk to their children and family members about their person cultural heritage. Highlight the books and authors of that culture. The Rotary program that day can focus on the cultural heritage of your community.

### **January: Theme: Rotary Awareness Month**

- **Local Project – Speaking of Books!** - Present a children’s book to a local library on the speaking topic of each weekly Rotary Club guest speaker. Have the guest speaker sign the book and choose the library to which he or she would like to donate the book – pre-school, public school, or public library.
- **National Project – Bookshelves for Habitat Homes** - Rotarians and local Habitat for Humanity workers can join together to increase the availability of reading material in the newly built homes. Rotarians construct or supply the book shelf for a new home and provide new or gently used books that are age appropriate for the residents. The local library or educators from the International Reading Association can assist in identifying appropriate books.
- **International Project – “Reading Across Continents”**- This is an International Reading Association project that connects students and teachers around the world via literature and technology. Your local Rotary Club partners with a classroom in a global community. Books are selected by the teachers, librarians and Rotarians. The student in both countries read their own books and, under the guidance of their teachers, form a Literature Club. With their teachers, the children communicate via email about the literature. For more information, contact Mocha Ochoa, Project Coordinator, through the Reading Across Continents website: [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)

### **February: Theme: World Understanding Month & the Rotary International Anniversary**

- **Local Project - Family Technology** – Organize a “Family Technology Team” from your Rotary Club members who will go to homes in the community in need of assistance to set up, plug in, and make secure the technical center of their home. Provide training sessions and opportunities for families to increase their technology skills.
- **National Project - The USA Dictionary Project** – Dictionary projects are a popular means for Rotary clubs to promote literacy in their schools and communities. Dictionaries and thesauruses can be purchased directly from publishers or through sources such as “The USA Dictionary Project” in Colorado Springs, CO. More information is available on their website at: [www.usadictionaryproject.org](http://www.usadictionaryproject.org).
- **International Project - Sudan Literacy Project** – In 2011 you can join or assist with phase 2 and 3 of the Southern Sudan Literacy Project of Training the Trainers. Citizens who are returning from the refugee camps to their homes in Southern Sudan will be trained to be teachers and to assist in the rebuilding of their civil-war devastated communities. This project is sponsored by Ellensburg Morning Club. Contact Judy Backlund for more information. [backlundpj@elltel.net](mailto:backlundpj@elltel.net)

### **March: Theme: Literacy Month & World Rotaract Week**

- **Local Project – Book- A- Month Club** - Provide a one-year enrollment to as many children as possible in a book-a-month club - such as the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- **National Project - Library Links to Families** - Rotary Clubs can work with their local libraries to develop and strengthen National Library programs that help children and parents increase the literacy in their homes. The projects for parents include library card drives, book lists, theme packets, story times, training for “Opening Doors to Early Learning” and publicizing web connections such as [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org). Caregiver programs needing support include the “Ready for Books” book delivery program, the Explorer Bookmobile and building collaborations and partnerships. Your club can be a link to the library system.
- **International Project - A Thousand Minutes Equals a Thousand Bucks** - This project starts locally with children reading and extends to help children around the world – especially in Third World countries. Local children in participating classrooms will read for a total of 1000 minutes of combined reading time over a year. Rotary clubs will donate \$1,000 for books and classroom supplies to a classroom in a disadvantaged country. The Rotary clubs need to supply local children with “Reading Passports” so that they may log in their reading minutes. Rotarians also provide books for local children to read and prizes and certificates to reward their efforts. The International Reading Association can help locate a needy school for the \$1,000 in classroom books and supplies.

### **April: Theme: Magazine Month**

- **Local Project - Read to Rotarians** - Visit sick Rotarians in hospitals or in their homes and read magazines to them – including “*The Rotarian!*” Collect used magazines from members, blacken-out their names and addresses, and deliver the magazines to long-term care, senior-living or rehabilitation facilities.
- **National Project - Reading Tree** – Contact the Reading Tree non-profit organization at [www.readingtree.org](http://www.readingtree.org) to set up a book recycling program. Reading Tree has two missions. First, they keep books from contributing to the saturation of our nation's landfills. Secondly, they collect books from families who no longer want them, and deliver the books to children, families, schools and libraries in desperate need. April is another closet-cleaning month and great time to collect the community cast-off books before they are sent to the dump. Set up book collection sites throughout the city and gather books together for pick-up by the Reading Tree.

- **International Project - Pillowcase Dresses for Africa or Haiti** – Organize an assembly line party at a Rotarian home where members can make a bunch of these simple pillowcase dresses. Each dress can be designed to coordinate with a donated book. Package the dress and book together in a clear baggie and send the Pillowcase-Book gift to a Rotary Club in Africa to distribute. You need to use a search engine (like Google) to find more information and directions for pillowcase dresses. This would help prepare little girls for the school year! They also have patterns for little boy shorts. Rotary spouses and grandmothers can help with this project! [www.littledressesforafrica.org](http://www.littledressesforafrica.org)

**May: Theme: Lead in Service – Lend a Hand**

- **Local Project - Books for Hospitalized Kids** – Celebrate National Speech and Hearing Month with a literacy project! Collect new or gently used books to be used at children’s hospitals and in wards for children 0-12 years-old who are recovering from surgery or illness. Literacy can be used to relieve the fear, loneliness and pain of young hospitalized children.
- **National Project – College & Professional Reading Mentors** – This project will help new college students increase their academic goals from “reading to get it done” to “reading to learn professionally.” Rotarians can mentor students based on mutual professional interests. Students visit the mentors’ workplace, meet the mentors on campus and do phone conferences. Each student writes in a journal that he or she shares with the club members at a meeting. Mentors help college students identify connections between reading in school, personal reading and workplace reading. This project is called “Reading Secrets” and it was designed by Penn State University instructor and Rotarian, Julie Wise. [juliebwise@comcast.net](mailto:juliebwise@comcast.net).
- **International Project – Read Locally, Share Globally: Educational Book Club Project**. This project is sponsored by Rotary partner, the International Reading Association (IRA). Rotarians in high-need countries are contacted by a local District 5060 Rotary club in order to form a professional book club. During the year they study IRA-published books on a topic of mutual interest. Members of the local and international clubs would read the book, meet to discuss it, and then possibly try out some of the strategies detailed in the book. Participating Rotarians then are connected, with the help of IRA and the internet, to other Rotarians in various countries. These individuals would be in their local book club reading the same book. Local Rotary clubs would fund any costs related to internet use.

**June: Theme: Rotary Fellowship Month & Rotary International Convention**

- **Local Project – Literacy Tapes for Housebound and Handicapped** - Rotarians can partner with the local library and health district in making tape recordings of books or magazine stories for seniors, blind and bed-ridden folks who enjoy listening to the narrations.
- **National Project – Library Links to Business** - Rotary clubs can work with their local libraries to develop and strengthen connections between the National Library programs and the businesses that encourage literacy for families. Caregiver programs needing support include the “Ready for Books” book delivery program, the Explorer Bookmobile, publicizing the library website on business websites, and building business collaborations and partnership programs. Your club can be a “Link” between local businesses and the library system.
- **International Project – Books Across Borders** – A Rotary Club can supply books and learning resources in English and the language of a distant global community. Contact the International Reading Association for a community in need and then contact a local Rotary Club there to partner in the distribution of the learning materials purchased by your club. [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)

**July: Theme: Literacy Month NOTE: New Rotary Year Begins**

- **Local Project - Tubs for Tots** – Provide “literacy tubs,” or containers of infant learning materials, for parents to use with their children at the local Head Start ECEAP or child care center. Include books, games, drawing and writing materials.
- **National Project - Create a Website** - Create a page on your club website that will be a literacy classroom to browsing guests throughout the year. Feature books of the month, readers of the month and local library reading times. You can also promote other literacy events in your city.
- **International Project – Professional Development Training Scholarships** - A Rotary Club can support the literacy training of a teacher in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, or Central or Eastern Europe. The training is done through the International Reading Association (IRA). New trainings occur every year. Financial support for the training is so important and needed! For the dates, locations and support needs, contact: [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org).

**August: Theme: Membership and Extension Month**

- **Local Project - Adult Literacy** – A volunteer team assists with an Adult Literacy Program by providing books in the language of the students and by volunteering to listen to adult students read. The local community college or public school can be of assistance.
- **National Project – Reading Journal for High Schools** – For \$60, a Rotary Club can purchase a year’s subscription to the “International Reading Association Journal” for a teacher, library or high school English Department. The school can be local or in a region with high need. The Journal is a GREAT professional development piece for teachers and it has lots of literacy ideas and motivational projects. Contact the school you have selected and the IRA: [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org).
- **International Project – Global Classroom Connections** – Rotary Clubs can check the website, [www.epals.com](http://www.epals.com), where teachers and classrooms from around the world are looking for community connections for correspondence and educational projects. Refine your search in order to identify global classrooms and then contact a local Rotary Club in that area to verify this “classroom e-pal”. Your Rotary Club then is able to set up a pattern of correspondence and cultural exchange with the new “e-pal” students.



Pillowcase dresses in Liberia



## Rotary District 5060 - Literacy Resource Group

Central Washington & South Central British Columbia

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