

Literacy Lives in District 7450

A total of 69 literacy related activities were reported by 12 clubs in the 2007 Rotary Literacy Awards. All clubs that submitted activities will receive recognition for their efforts. Clubs with 10 or more activities will qualify for the Zone Literacy Award. This year three clubs are Zone Award recipients: Longwood, with 11; Central Delaware County; and Philadelphia. Congratulations to all the clubs that submitted their certification forms and especially our zone award recipients.

One of the most popular literacy activities in the district is the Dictionary Project. This is a special program in which clubs buy dictionaries for complete classrooms in at-risk schools. Special group pricing makes this project very affordable. Ten of the total activities related to the Dictionary Project. Also popular were programs and speakers related to literacy. Librarians, ESL teachers and adult literacy providers were among the 7 presenters in this category. Reading and/or mentoring students in schools also had 7 activities. The new and innovative Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE) had 5 activities. CLE is a unique program to teach English language learners to speak and read English. Many other activities were undertaken by clubs to encourage reading and engage their communities in literacy.

It's not too soon to start planning activities for the 2008 Rotary Literacy Awards. Start making a list of projects to undertake and look for the reporting form next spring. Additional information on district literacy activities can be found on the web page: www.rotary7450.org. Just click on the "Service Projects" link. The literacy newsletters are filled with great project ideas. Plan something to celebrate September 8th as International Literacy Day.