

Lions International Youth Exchange Report

Distinct 27-D1 Cabinet Meeting – August 2, 2009

Introduction

Presently, there are 52 International youth in Wisconsin residing with host families, 5 of which are in our district; 2 from Austria, 1 from Romania 1 from Hong Kong and 1 from Italy. In addition, 5 youth from our district are currently or have just returned from a youth exchange in other countries; Finland, Italy & Switzerland. 4 of the 5 youth in our district received an \$800 district Youth Exchange Scholarship.

Unfortunately, we had one cancelation of an outgoing youth due to a miscommunication between the host country (Italy) and our States Coordinator. Finally, when the issue was resolved it was too late to make the final arrangements this year. We have agreed to extend her application through next year and she already has some arrangements to be hosted in Germany.

This past year we made some significant changes to the program.

- We published a comprehensive youth exchange handbook which contains all the program details for both host families and our youth wishing to travel abroad and distributed those in both printed and electronic form to interested parties.
- We initiated a host family grant program in which host families can apply to receive up to \$200 (budget permitting) grant to help defray the costs of hosting a youth for 4-6 weeks. All 5 families applied for and received this award.
- We hosted the first outgoing youth exchange seminar in which all the outgoing youth attended. There, they had an opportunity to discuss their arrangements with the state outgoing youth coordinator, John Ziino; the states youth exchange chairman, Ray Tweedale; an exchangee from the previous year with her family; our past youth exchange chairman, Jim Guy and myself. This event was held in Cottage Grove and was a great success.

Finances/Budget

This past year we successfully raised \$5831 from 50 district lion and lioness clubs this past year which, along with our carryover from past year has allowed us to successfully administer this program. Our expenses were \$5680 which includes our districts portion of the camp fee, \$1480, 5 x \$200 host family grants and 4 x \$800 youth exchange scholarships.

Finally, the YE committee will soon begin our annual fundraiser which involves a mailing to each club secretary to solicit funds in the recommended amount of \$2.00/club member. Each of the 4 YE committee members is responsible for a specific district region.

There are currently 4 volunteers on the District 27-D1 youth exchange committee; Terry Miller – Pardeeville L, Dave Peltier – Beloit Noon, Rob Perkins – Cuba City and Ben August – Token Creek.

It's a pleasure serving on this committee and participating in a program that satisfies the first objective of the Lions "To create and foster a spirit of understanding among peoples of the world"

Lion Ben August
Youth Exchange Committee Chair