

**District Council Presentation
June 2, 2018
Cornwall**

**District Literacy Chair Proposal
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District 7040

Literacy Chair Plan 2018-21

Vision: To enhance District 7040 local* literacy efforts with special emphasis on Dictionary4Life (D4L) and inclusion of the Free Reading Program. *Not at the exclusion of international efforts but simply to place more emphasis on local literacy projects.

Purpose: The overall purpose will be to have clubs review their efforts in supporting literacy and as District literacy chair with the support of the RCWO Dictionary4Life committee and Board,

1. To make available the D4L project to District 7040 clubs as a new project option for supporting literacy.
2. To make available the D4L project as a way to augment or strengthen District 7040 clubs' existing literacy projects.
3. To continue to develop an informal literacy network within the District.
4. To offer support, as needed, with other RI Literacy Project Guide ideas.

District goals: As at the club level, the overall goal is to help develop the youths' vocabulary and better their language understanding, help children develop stronger self esteem, encourage familiarity with books, give "pride of ownership", and promote Rotary values to the child, family and the community.

Short Term Objectives and Responsibilities (1-3 yrs)

1. Continue to pro-actively promote D4L and the Free Reading Program at the District level: District exhibits; encourage Heather Lennie to speak/exhibit at District Assembly/Conferences.
2. Engage ~9 more clubs of the 68 District 7040 clubs in the D4L project. Include 1 min. video in new club presentations. Invite a delegate at these new club presentations to attend a RCWO D4L school presentation to observe the project first hand. Seek letters of support or permission to contact from Principals who love our program for new clubs to use to connect with school(s) of their own.
3. Encourage other literacy initiatives as listed in the RI Literacy Project Guide:
 - a) Improve access to books and learning materials: Book donations, Dictionary donations, Library support
 - b) Support schools and teachers: Adopt a school, Teacher training
 - c) Enhance classroom learning: Early childhood literacy, Adult literacy, Student mentoring, Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE)
 - d) Promote community development: Improve community health, Address special needs.

Most literacy projects are a mix of several initiatives, which gives clubs the opportunity to match their skills and interests to a project while addressing the multifaceted needs of the community.

Long Term (3-5 yrs)

1. Continue to expand the D4L project in a slow controlled manner to ensure it does not grow too quickly without proper controls in place.

Rotary Club of West Ottawa Club Literacy Plan 2018-21

Vision: To continue to enhance the Dictionary4Life project within our club and promote and encourage participation in with such programs as the Free Reading Program and Ottawa Reads all while continuing expansion to other District 7040 clubs.

Purpose: The overall purpose of the project is to provide a gift of a Dictionary 4 Life (D4L) to Grade 3 youth in Ottawa schools and youth in homework clubs. As the lead club for Dictionary4Life we want to support the District literacy efforts including,

1. To increase our club efforts in support of local literacy.
2. To encourage other clubs to support local literacy by using the Dictionary4Life as a new project.
3. To encourage ourselves and other clubs to enhance/ augment/ strengthen their local literacy projects with, for example, Ottawa Reads, book donations, Free Reading Program.
4. To offer overall management of the expansion of the Dictionary4Life project to other District clubs.

Goals: Our overall goal is to help develop the youths' vocabulary and better their language understanding, help children develop stronger self esteem, encourage familiarity with books, give "pride of ownership", and promote Rotary values to the child, family and the community.

Short Term Objectives and Responsibilities (1-3 years)

1. Provide dictionaries annually to up to 10 schools. Inform schools they can include special needs students, of any age, in their Grade 3 count for books.
2. Ensure all participating D4L clubs identify a representative, forming an informal network among clubs with the project.
3. Encourage each club to increase their D4L budgets (or take on one new school each year for next 3 years). Currently there are 11 Ottawa area schools seeking D4L project support.
4. Continue to meet with the two school board literacy coordinators/Superintendents (OCDSB, OCSB) and include special needs students as part of the discussions.
5. Provide the overall management of the project which includes gathering the estimated number of books to order, billing for orders, ordering of and payment for books, clearing the shipment through customs, shipping from Montreal to Ottawa and storage until distributed to all clubs, producing bookmarks and inside labels for each club, arranging for collection of books by clubs.
6. Maintain a financial accounting system(s) which will include the requirement of clubs to pay up-front for the books that they order as part of a December 31st order.
7. Establish a sub-committee to develop ways to evaluate the D4L project, e.g. simple 1 page exit survey left with Principals or teacher. Consider ways to either get feedback from students/parents who have received D4L books in the past 7 years.
8. Continue support with RCWO volunteers for the Ottawa Reads program (currently 7 volunteers in 2 schools). Encourage these volunteers to inform their teachers/schools of the Free Reading Program and have Ottawa Reads Coordinator follow up with the teachers/schools.

Long Term Objectives and Responsibilities (3-5 years)

1. Look at specialized schools and Special needs students as potential targets for D4L, Ottawa Reads and the Free Reading Program.
2. Engage Rotaract club(s) to support this project.

In terms of outcomes, we envision a continued enhanced relationship between youth in our community and the Rotary club. Youth will gain a very positive experience to enhance their self esteem and confidence through better literacy skills. Better performance on Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) exams will be possible. Better language use by all family members could result.