

As Rotarians, we certainly agree that today's youth represent the future of our nation, the world, and of course, Rotary's future. RYLA and Interact are two of Rotary's premier youth programs that help develop young leaders and instill in them the Rotary ideal of "service above self".

OUR CONCERN

According to a survey of 36,000 American youth conducted by the Josephson Institute of Ethics, young people believe that ethics are important, but the behavior of far too many indicates otherwise. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of surveyed students stated they believe "honesty and trust are essential in personal relationships." However, eighty-two percent (82%) admit lying to a parent about something significant within the past 12 months. Eighty-three percent (83%) claimed that "it's not worth it to lie or cheat because it hurts your character," but sixty percent (60%) have cheated during a test at school. This disconnect is something we, as Rotarians, must strive to reverse.

OUR OPPORTUNITY

Rotary International Director Paul Netzel's vision is that expanded ethics training needs to be a top priority for youth programs in Zones 23/24 and beyond. We have an exceptional opportunity to do so by developing this pilot program in cooperation with the highly regarded Josephson Institute.

OUR OBJECTIVE

The objective is to build upon already successful programs by establishing how core ethical values and The Four- Way Test can be more fully integrated into **all** aspects of Rotary, especially youth programs.

ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST

Of all the things we think, say, or do:

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will It Build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

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Zones 23/24 Ethics Resource Initiative

*"To Significantly Increase the Impact
of the 4-Way Test on Youth in RYLA &
Interact and Beyond"*

***"The youth of a nation are the
trustees of posterity."***

- Benjamin Disraeli

OUR FINDINGS

In early 2008 the Josephson Institute of Ethics completed a survey of over 1,000 Rotarians and youth participating in RYLA and Interact.

Among the conclusions in that report on the survey are the following:

- Coordinating a RYLA program and sponsoring an Interact club that is either school-based or community-based, adds an important dimension to Rotary's programming.
- Many of the RYLA programs are successful experiences, but not all programs achieve the stated goals or have adequate support in determining what should be included in the curriculum.
- Rotary's Four-Way Test is not seen by many to be an integral component of the RYLA experience or Interact club, and even when utilized, The Four Way Test is not applied with great rigor.
- There is a significant disparity in what adults and youth believe should be included at RYLA curriculum as it relates to character development, leadership and ethics.
- Even though Rotary Zones 23 & 24 have district trainers, there is an absence of a clearly defined training program, either in terms of presentation skills or understanding of content necessary to effectively teach ethics of leadership to youth.
- For RYLA and Interact, there is only a minimal effort to establish or formally evaluate instructional objectives. A quality assessment tool is needed.

DISTRICT PARTICIPATION

A district can initially participate in the Rotary Zones 23/24 Ethics Initiative either as a Pilot District or as a Non-Pilot District. The advantages of each category of participating districts are outlined below.

Pilot Districts

- Approximately 12 districts will be selected as pilot districts on a first-come (confirmed in writing), first-served basis.
- Pilot Districts will select experienced subject matter experts on RYLA and Interact to serve on the Rotary Editorial Committee (REC).
- They will participate with the Josephson Institute to develop a modular program on ethics that can then be individualized by districts.
- RYLA and district trainers participate in a one-day training at the Josephson Institute on using the materials to teach ethics to youth.
- Pilot Districts will be first to use materials at RYLA camps & Interact clubs.
- They will have access to Michael Josephson at a reduced speaker fee of \$4,000 + expenses (his normal fee is \$20,000) or they may choose to use as a speaker Dr. Gary Smit, a Rotarian who is serving as the "lead" with Michael Josephson on this project @ \$3,000 + expenses.
- Pilot Districts will be recognized at the 2008 Portland Institute and on the Zones 23/24 Website: www.rotaryzone2324.org.

Non-Pilot Districts

- A Non-Pilot District may still participate at a lesser cost (see next panel)
- RYLA and district trainers will be trained by trainers from the Ethics Task Force

- Access to Ethics Task Force speakers

COSTS

- Pilot Districts commit to funding of \$10,000
- Non-Pilot Districts commit to funding \$5,000
- Payments must be completed by February 28, 2009

What are possible ways districts raise funds to participate?

- DSG funds
- District budgets or reserves
- RYLA and Interact budgets
- Club fundraisers — portion of net profits
- Individual Rotarians

Our District's Next Steps

The Zones 23/24 Ethics Task Force will contact districts to explain the program in more detail.

Each district will be asked to sign a commitment form agreeing to participate in the program. The funds may be split over a two-year period, but must be paid in full by February 28, 2009.

Pilot Districts will be asked to identify their RYLA representative and youth trainer to participate with the Josephson Institute to develop the program; and to participate in training at the Josephson Institute on teaching ethics to youth.

FUTURE

With participation by the Pilot Districts and in conjunction with the Josephson Institute we will undertake a project to develop a set of modular materials on ethics and The Four-Way Test that can be individualized by districts and clubs to suit their own needs. Materials will be ready for evaluation by June of 2009.