



Catania, 1 settembre 2015

Literacy education and opportunities for constructive and irreprehensible sociability

Dear fellow members,

The month that Rotary International dedicates to Literacy and to Basic Education begins today.

This is a crucial topic and, for this reason, it is one of the six action points that Rotary International recommends to undertake with priority over other topics. Such countries as Malta and Italy might not feel directly affected by this subject and to some extent they are not; nonetheless, some recent data (source UN) show that other countries are doing better therefore Malta and Italy have to make do with a surprising 87 place for Malta (95,7% of literates) and a 47 place for Italy (99,2% of literates), preceded by unsuspected countries as Georgia and Cuba. It is easy to identify scholastic reluctance as the main cause for a yet incomplete literacy in such countries as Malta and Italy. Somewhere else there are deeper and more serious reasons (mainly prejudices and lack of resources).

Rotary can and must intervene locally (for example through awareness raising campaigns to support the already strong commitment of the District Scholastic Departments) and globally through the Global Grants of Rotary Foundation.

There is literacy education for migrants as well, for which many Clubs of our district have done and still do a lot and the basic education (motor, information technology, musical etc.) which is a way for Rotary to approach disadvantaged social groups by offering an alternative to less praiseworthy hobbies and by setting an example for a constructive and irreprehensible sociability. We do have the best professionals to do so and we should put their good will to use: it suffices to coordinate and our "serving artisans" will produce the wished results as "gift to the world"!



Last month – and i’m writing this with the required enthusiasm – we judged, approved and financed, for a total amount of forty thousand Euros, service projects submitted by 51 clubs! Nothing compared to the meritorious Rotary Foundation, but I have personally disposed this money within the prescribed 10% limit over the amounts forecasted in the budget plan under the heading “Clubs contributions”. The District does not ask for but gives back from what the Clubs are statutorily compelled to pay to it. I wish you good luck with your work, waiting to see the wonderful service projects realized, the outcome of intelligent and competent creativity...the well known extra oomph that makes us stand out, I say once more, as “serving artisans” who have to and want to be “a gift to the world”!

Before finishing, I should like to stress two more points. The first one. A reference that I would make, in a different page of this magazine, on some personal thoughts about rules and rotarian democracy and about the relationship between the president and board. The second one. An unpleasant but remediable note: we see the delay of many clubs over Rotary Central and this is unacceptable, especially after all the instruction sessions dedicated by the district management to this subject (and also two guide pages in August district magazine). We are rotarians and therefore we follow the rules: Rotary Central is inescapable. Whoever thinks differently impairs its own Club and the District and it cannot be accepted. Let’s be patients and “get literates” with Rotary Central!

Francesco Filazzo