

Proposal for Future Workings of Youth Committee

I have noticed that we are meeting with resistance to many of the projects currently undertaken by Youth Committee (YC) and due to the great number of awards and prizes we give, we have become a very large committee and a little "unwieldy", if I might be so bold. I notice too that we have had some notices from District to include yet more prizes in our itinerary, including Young Environmentalist, etc. as a way of attracting more young people to Rotary.

I am not convinced that this is the way to go, yet more prizes & awards means yet more people to run them and an even bigger committee, also if we have very few entries, we are involved in more work for very little reward, maybe even to the point where we have no entries for a class, despite our best efforts and this maybe due to increasing number of obstacles in our way in terms of dealing with schools.

So I should like to propose the following, to be discussed at our next meeting, I shall be absent due to holidays. I would like this to be considered in November however:

- 1) YC is reduced to a core of say 6 people, three from each rotary club.
- 2) Additional members work to facilitate each viable award we make and are called to meetings when their particular area is discussed, or is active at the time.
- 3) We limit ourselves to making a fixed number of awards for Youth per year, this number to be discussed.
- 4) If we only have a maximum of say 10 entries across all our categories, we make awards based upon those numbers, so if there is no Photograph entries, we award maybe more design prizes. That way we are still giving a manageable number of awards across a flexible spectrum that can be managed by the resources we have available.

The overall aim of this is to prioritise our resources to a level that is manageable for both clubs, to keep the committee to a sensible size that is able to make decisions effectively and to make best use of committee members' time.

Jumping on the "environmental" bandwagon as a way of attracting young people to Rotary is not viable, or creditable in my opinion. The young like to do things their way and in their environment, there is little place for older generations in their current quests, so I cannot support this as a method.

Pushing the use of FaceBook (FB) is also a non-starter for me, the main users of FB now are older generations in certain socio-economic strata (not my invention, but one you can easily find by searching the internet...), the young do not use FB very much at all, preferring other social media platforms. To be honest, FB's moral compass is so divergent from that of Rotary, I am surprised District seems to want to promote its use at all. I would have thought that a more professional organisation, like for example LinkedIn might be a better bet for Rotary.

Notes:

I am writing this from memory of the original I wrote in the UK on my MacBook in October (I don't have that machine with me) so I hope I have covered everything I originally wrote. We only have one machine with us and that is mainly for storing and cataloguing photographs.

I am currently rounding Cape Horn on route to Antarctica and Internet connection is patchy and insecure at best, to the point where our Apple equipment is often most reluctant to connect due to security concerns. Therefore I may not be able to respond to any questions immediately, but please send questions any way and I will try to answer them as and when I have access to the wider world.