



October /November 2010 Edition

The second annual Interact Leadership Workshop was held October 16, 2010 in Truckee at Truckee High School. While the participation was low, the ideas were plentiful on membership recruiting, fund raising, community projects, international projects and officer training on how to plan and conduct a meeting.

❖ **How do you plan and conduct a meeting?**

To help with planning the meeting, begin with deciding what items need to be covered during the meeting:

1. Call the meeting to order.
2. Approval of the agenda.
3. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting and additional information from the secretary.
4. Have a treasurer's report and approval of the report.
5. Report of any committees – membership, fundraising, etc.
6. Unfinished business – items that were continued from the previous meeting for further research.
7. New business
8. Adjournment

We also discussed how decisions are made by “making a motion”. If a member wishes to make a proposal they state it in a motion: “I move to eliminate daylight saving time.” If another member seconds the motion, then it can be discussed/debated before being brought to a vote of the membership or tabled, by vote, for more information.

A more complete description can be found in Robert's Rules of Order by Henry Robert III, et al 2004 – my recommendation is the “in brief” version versus of the full version. The former is much more concise and covers what is needed for most meetings and especially Interact meetings.

As a comment: You will be surprised how helpful the skills in planning and conducting a meeting will be as you get involved in organizations through college and beyond! What a great time to learn how to do this well!



❖ MEMBERSHIP

How do you recruit members to Interact when there are so many other clubs competing for the same population i.e. students? Some of the ideas presented were:

1. To work with other clubs at the school.
2. Publicize the Rotary connection to enhance Interact membership
3. Get articles published in the school bulletin on activities and projects of the Interact club
4. Network and bring in friends and students met at other functions – football games, dances, etc.

A question for everyone: How do you get freshmen and sophomore students to join your Interact club? This is critical for all clubs to ensure the sustainability of the club!

❖ FUNDRAISING

This was probably the most informative of all the breakout sessions – how do you raise money for your Interact club. This is a questions faced by many of the Rotary Clubs also. Suggestions included (and the scribe could not write fast enough to keep up):

1. Cooking class on how to make sushi. The cost for taking the class was the fundraiser after costs for materials, teacher time, etc. The best part is you get to eat your creation at the end.
2. Hat day at school – can wear a hat for the day at the cost of \$1.00. Most of the purchasers will be boys who want to be able to wear a hat during the day. Good for those schools than ban wearing of hats.
3. Sell tickets to a raffle for donated items from local businesses.
4. Have a Salsa dance with instruction being provided at the dance.
5. Have a boy's talent show complete with dress up – use teachers, counselors or administrators for judges or ask the host Rotary club to be the judges.
6. See's candies and Party Lite both have fund raising programs for organizations to name a couple of choices.
7. Of course there are car washes, bake sales and similar ways to raise money.

Do you have a fundraising idea that is really successful, and that other Interact clubs could use? Please share with us on Facebook or send in your idea to be included in the next newsletter!



❖ COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL PROJECTS

This was another area of numerous ideas and projects that have been or are ongoing projects.

1. Senior Prom – not for members of the senior class, but senior citizens. This can be held at a community center, senior citizen center, etc. with the help of the school band to provide music that was popular when they were younger.
2. Adopt a highway – this one is very age dependent as states have different laws on allowing students help pick up trash along a highway. Adopting a park or a playground may be a better choice than a highway or street for safety reasons.
3. Back Pack Buddies – provide food to students that are on the subsidized school lunch program for over the weekend when they may be going hungry. Estimated cost is \$2.00 per student per week – high school students may be closer to \$3.00. This is one that could be done in conjunction with the host Rotary club.
4. Host a book drive to replace or add to books available at an elementary school.
5. Go to an elementary school and read a book to the class.
6. Become a mentor for middle/junior high school students.
7. Trick or treat for food as a food drive – this could be done to help support the back pack buddies program.
8. Have a senior assistance day – help a senior citizen to repaint, rake leaves, mow lawns or general yard work they are not able to do any more.

❖ INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Because of the nature of international projects and difficulty in making contact with Interact Clubs throughout the world you may want to consider projects to be done in conjunction with the host club on one of their projects. Other ideas were:

1. Purple Pinkie Project to support polio eradication—see details later in the newsletter from a successful project by the Chester Interact Club.
2. WAPI – Water Pasteurization Indicator – more details about the program can be found on Wikipedia. This is an international project that can be done without a lot of money, and your Interact members are able to assemble the devices themselves. There are several Rotary clubs that can help locate communities that need these devices. If you want to do a WAPI project, please contact your Interact District co-chairs, Ron Rehn or Bob Conner.



3. ProjectLINK is a searchable database that lists Rotary club and district community service projects in need of funding, volunteers, donated goods, and/or partners for a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, and completed projects that can be used as examples of best practices.

www.rotary.org/en/serviceandfellowship/projectresources/projectlink/

4. Research international organizations to partner with carefully to ensure that the money you send is going where it will help others.

Please share your successful international projects with us!

OTHER IDEAS FROM THE WORKSHOP

- ❖ Consider adding a Rotary Liaison position to your Interact officers to help maintain regular contact with your sponsoring (and other local) Rotary Club. This person can attend Rotary meetings or Rotary board meetings to keep communication open, and report back to the Interact members.
- ❖ Addressing the difficulty in getting all of the clubs to a central location for a workshop or social event, one suggestion was to have “regional” sessions to bring the students in relatively close geographic areas together at a time and place convenient for all. For example, the clubs along the eastern Sierra and the Reno/Sparks and Carson City areas would be one group, Auburn area another, Placerville/Cameron Park another, etc. Let us know your thoughts on this concept.
- ❖ Facebook is another way to improve communications with all of the clubs having a Facebook page, maintained by the students and linked to the District 5190 Facebook. This way the students would have access to any and all communications from the District as well as links to each other to share ideas, successes or what did not work.

How many of you have a Facebook page for your Interact club? Have you been to the District 5190 Interact Facebook page?

- ❖ It is recommended that each Interact club have a 4 Way Test banner to exhibit during their meetings. If you cannot afford one, how about having club members make one? (A 3' x 5' banner costs about \$100 from Russell Hampton.)



ETHICS UPDATE

We had fun during the workshop with a number of activities related to ethics, such as blowing up balloons, and then keeping the balloon up in the air. The balloon symbolized a lie, and the discussion ensued about the difficulty of keeping a lie going, especially when a lot of people are involved.

The fact is, when you mention “ethics”, many people become defensive or think they have already heard it all before. This is a definite barrier to making progress with respect to improving our lives by improving our character. “Everyone is ethical in their own mind.”

However, when statistics of ethical behavior (cheating, lying, etc.) are known, there is much room for improvement, and this is certainly a topic of importance to Rotarians to share with Interact clubs.

The issues we hear a lot about right now are bullying and peer pressure. The question becomes “how can we help Interact members to improve these two problems?”

One answer is the discussion of ethical decision making, including the critical discussion of stakeholders.

The ability to make good decisions is critical to successful living. Fortunately, good decision making skills can be learned. Our first approach to teaching good decision making is as simple as referring to the 4 Way Test. This is a great starting point, but may not be enough when dealing with complicated or complex decisions, especially if a decision requires one ethical principle to be sacrificed to achieve another...such what you say when you receive the (hideous) green sweater your grandmother knitted for you (with love).

Next month, we will include an activity for you to use to help with understanding the “stakeholder” concept, as well as a listing of the strategies that can be used to make good decisions.

A great exercise is to take a real life ethical dilemma and work through the strategies to come to a good decision (and ultimately, to the “best possible result”). Be alert to some of the decisions the Interact members are facing to help make these activities most useful.

If you want some additional “ethical” activities to use in your Interact club in the meantime, just let us know!



Featured Interact Project

❖ THE PURPLE PINKIE PROJECT – CHESTER INTERACT CLUB

Last year the members of the Chester High School Interact Club wanted to raise money for the Polio Plus campaign. Polio Plus is Rotary International's long standing program to eradicate polio in the world and has been ninety-nine percent successful to this point.

Chester Interact did some research and decided on the "Purple Pinkie Project" which was developed in Florida (see website below). The Interact Club decided that it would be beneficial to bring it to their local area to create awareness and to help children in need of polio vaccinations around the world. They started by giving presentations in the classrooms and informing them what polio is and how they were going to help. The following week, they went back to the classrooms to collect \$1.00 from each student and those that could donate the money had their pinkie (little finger) dyed with the same dye used in countries to indicate the person has been vaccinated against polio. This accomplished two objectives – educate students about the disease and raise awareness in local schools. The total time spent on the project can be broken down into 10 hours of meetings, 3 hours of presentations and 6 hours dying pinkies for a total of 19 hours.

www.rotary6940.org/pdfs/PurplePinkieProjectHandbook.pdf

We would love to feature your club activities or project in our next newsletter!