

RESOLUTION 17R-18

To request the RI Board to consider recognizing EarlyAct clubs

Proposer(s): Rotary Club of Lincoln-Woodstock, District 7850, USA

Endorsed by: District 7850 through an annual district conference, Lincoln, New Hampshire, USA, 2-4 June 2017

1 WHEREAS, RI sanctions youth-centric organizations and initiatives such as
2 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Youth Exchange, The Four-Way Test
3 speech contest, Interact, and Rotaract in order to teach the values of Rotary and
4 introduce The Four-Way Test to young people, and

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6 WHEREAS, RI recognizes Youth Service as a fifth Avenue of Service, focusing on
7 and supporting Rotary activities which support the development of young people,
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, there is a need to promote these same values to young people at an
11 earlier age than those currently served by RI-sanctioned entities, and Rotary
12 districts, understanding this need, have created non-RI-sanctioned clubs for
13 students aged 6 to 12, having identified them as EarlyAct clubs, and

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15 WHEREAS, EarlyAct clubs serve their schools, local communities, and promote
16 international goodwill with the support of their sponsoring Rotary club, schools,
17 and communities, and

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19 WHEREAS, EarlyAct clubs are mentored by Interact clubs, creating a succession
20 plan to promote and support the transition from elementary school to middle
21 school to high school, and

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23 WHEREAS, EarlyAct clubs, already supported by their districts, need to be
24 recognized and supported by RI, in order to encourage community service,
25 promote “Service Above Self,” and teach the values identified by The Four-Way
26 Test to young people aged 6 to 12 to ensure the sustainability of RI

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28 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
29 International consider the official recognition of EarlyAct clubs.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

30 RI and its member clubs have the responsibility of ensuring their sustainability
31 by engaging, maintaining, and growing membership. Towards that end, the
32 Rotary Club of Lincoln-Woodstock makes the following proposal:

1 Our current District 7850 governor, who is also a member of our club, has made
2 “Sustainability” our district’s motto for the 2016-17 Rotary Year. Our proposal is
3 predicated on this theme. Sustainability, defined for this proposal to be
4 synonymous with “Growing Rotarians,” is what Rotary needs to ensure that once
5 we, as living, active Rotarians are no longer able to fulfill our service
6 commitments, we have a multigenerational succession plan in place so that
7 Rotary may continue to do good things worldwide, forever.
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9 RI has created the basis for this succession plan via Youth Service, the fifth
10 Avenue of Service, by sanctioning Interact clubs for students aged 12 to 18, and
11 Rotaract clubs for young people aged 18 to 30. Additionally, Rotary-sponsored
12 initiatives such as RYLA, Youth Exchange, and The Four-Way Test speech contest
13 have also served this area of focus. Ideally, speech contestants become
14 Interactors, who become RYLarians, who become Youth Exchange participants,
15 who become Rotaractors. Each entity provides support for the other, with all
16 entities ultimately supported by Rotarians, and all participants hopefully
17 becoming Rotarians.
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19 There is a critical piece to this succession plan which is missing, however; this is
20 the basis for our proposal. In order to indoctrinate the values of Rotary into
21 young people as early as possible, we propose that RI sanction the existence of a
22 community service club consisting of elementary school members, aged 6 to 12.
23 Many districts, ours included, have created these clubs and named them EarlyAct
24 clubs. This is the missing sustainability piece of the equation for “Growing
25 Rotarians” that will ensure that Rotary continues serving humanity forever.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

26 If implemented, this resolution would result in an increase in expenses for RI. If
27 EarlyAct is administered as a structured program (similar to Interact), expenses
28 are estimated to be at US\$145,000 per year for one staff person, production of
29 materials and postage. In addition, there is an initial cost of US\$20,000 for
30 global trademark searches and registration.