

RESOLUTION 24R-15

To request the RI Board to consider developing a structure within Rotary to address illiteracy

Proposer(s): Rotary Club of Ujjain, District 3040, India

1 WHEREAS, reading and writing were developed by humans to produce, store,
2 and share a physical record of knowledge with others across time and distance. In
3 doing so, they have created a base of knowledge upon which successive
4 generations may build, and

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6 WHEREAS, our daily interactions with the written word are, by their very nature,
7 predicated upon literacy. It is vital for people to be able to read signs, labels, and
8 phone messages. And the same applies to writing. Today, text-based
9 communication underscores the need to be able to read, and

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11 WHEREAS, moreover, literacy is critical in transforming children into socially
12 involved citizens. Reading and writing means being able to stay informed,
13 communicate effectively, and comprehend the issues that shape our world, and

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15 WHEREAS, literacy is important for employment. Without it, searching for or
16 reading a job post, putting together a resume, or reading an employment contract
17 become difficult, and

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19 WHEREAS, literacy is also important for civic activity. Apart from the fact that
20 much of the information produced by a government and its associated agencies is
21 generally provided in written form, poor literacy also impairs an individual's
22 capacity to vote and thus to exercise one's most fundamental right within a
23 democratic society, and

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25 WHEREAS, as an organization, Rotary already has the protocols and experience
26 necessary in order to further advance its vision of a world of greater equality and
27 peace. This resolution not only addresses the basic education and literacy area of
28 focus, but also all other areas of focus together, as illiteracy is the root cause for
29 every problem, whether it relates to health, peace, livelihood, or any other

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31 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of RI
32 consider developing a structure within Rotary to address illiteracy, as was done in
33 order to eliminate polio from the world, so that Rotary members may focus all of
34 their collective efforts to make a literate world the way we have made a polio-free
35 world.

(End of Text)

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 1 If implemented, this resolution would have a financial impact on RI which cannot
- 2 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of
- 3 support provided by the RI Board to accomplish this goal. Basic education and
- 4 literacy is currently an area of focus.