

Youth Camps and Exchange Committee

Report by: George Robison, Chairperson

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This past summer, four youth from MD19 travelled abroad, two from 19I and two from 19C. They have been asked to submit reports of their trip, for publication in the Border Crossing, but none have been received. For their trip, the MD19 Lions Youth Exchange Foundation provided them with pins, flags, folding backpack and polo shirts, all with the MD19 YEP logo and their name on the polo shirts.

Unlike a year ago, when hosts for nine youth from Australia were found in about two weeks, this year host volunteers have been sparse. One youth from Australia placed herself with a host from 19C who had hosted her friend last year. We are still trying to place one youth from New Zealand and two from Australia. Although there potentially are hosts for two of the three, the hosts still need to indicate acceptance of the youth.

Three districts have yet to name a Youth Exchange Chair.

An email request for donations to the YE Foundation was sent to every club in 19C and the MD19 office was asked to send it to all clubs in MD19, but only three clubs have responded with a donation, all in 19C. Donations are intended to fund scholarships to assist youth in paying travel and incidental expenses. Two scholarship applications were received last year, and two scholarships were awarded. Scholarship applications will be available about October 1st.

For well over a year, starting shortly after the death of the long-time Foundation Chair and Treasurer, PDG Ron Silver, we tried to get a response from the TD Canada Trust branch in Quesnel, B . C., and finally got a response and some action. During the MD19 Convention, I and present Treasurer Tammy Allan, will visit the Whistler branch to sign new paperwork and eventually transfer the funds to Banner Bank in Washington State, where Tammy lives.

It is hoped that every DG and every VDG will promote Youth Exchange and the YE Foundation during their club visits. It is simply not possible for me or the District YE Chairs to visit every club.

Please support the Youth Exchange Program and the Foundation, which are separate entities. The Foundation is a Washington State Charitable Corporation and donations are tax exempt pursuant to U. S. IRS Regulation 501(c)(3). Anyone and any Lions Club can donate.