

Youth Camps and Exchange Committee

Report by: George Robison, Chairperson

Report Date: May 16, 2018

First, thank you, to each of the Lions who continue to make the program work: Kathy Schumer who coordinates the program with Europe, Tammy Allan who serves as Treasurer, Rob Schumer who serves as Vice President/Vice Chair, the District YEP Chairs who struggle to make the program work and those who open their homes to the youth who come to learn our culture.

There are approximately 11,509 members in the 416 Lions Clubs of the 9 Districts in MD19, yet each Winter and Summer it is like pulling teeth to find a dozen or so hosts for the 6 to 10 youth wanting to visit this great Lions Multiple District. I believe that this is partially the result of a lack of knowledge of and participation in Youth Exchange by district leadership.

How many of you have hosted a youth as part of the Lions Youth Exchange Program? How many know that there is a Lions Youth Camps and Exchange (YEP) and a separate YE Foundation of MD19? I would be pleased to present a class on the subject.

The YE Foundation is tax free to donors and the Foundation as a 501(c)(3) charity under U. S. tax law. Donations are gladly accepted from individuals, clubs, districts and the MD,

Youth Exchange is not officially supported in each district within MD19. Several districts do not have a YEP Chair. There is a lack of understanding among some DGs as to what the program is. I would very much like to give the DGs a short program on the two parts of Youth Exchange in MD19. Did you know that there are two parts?

The MD19 program has downsized of necessity since there are so few Lions willing to take on jobs. However, it does continue to function. Robyn Berry for her District and parents of outgoing youth in District 19C do their own travel research and buy the tickets for their youth. This is what is being done in all districts if a youth wishes to travel.

This year the YE Foundation gave out two scholarships to help with travel costs. In addition, the Foundation will provide each youth with two polo shirts with YEP logo and their name, a travel bag with YEP logo, MD19 YEP pins and MD19 YEP banners.

A couple of months ago I visited several Puget Sound area Lions Clubs to present Certificates and am awaiting better weather to travel to Spokane and into Canada. I am now recovering from full left hip replacement surgery performed on May 7th and am not getting around very well. However, later this year, in a couple of months, I will visit the remaining clubs to present Certificates in Eastern Washington and British Columbia.