



## NEWS RELEASE

### ***Long Neck Sunrise Rotary Club Sends Three Indian River High School Juniors to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference***

**(Millsboro) (May 9, 2017)** — Long Neck Sunrise Rotary Club sent three juniors from Indian River High School to Rotary District 7630's 5th Annual RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) Conference at the Carousel Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland February 17-19, 2017. Helen Davis, Sean Wilson, and Kennedy Butch were part of 125 teens, primarily high school juniors, who were brought together from throughout the Rotary district, which encompasses the Eastern Shore of Maryland and all of Delaware, to share in a weekend of leadership training activities including speakers, discussion groups and some fun team building activities. The three teens attended the club's meeting on May 9 and spoke to the group about their experiences.

The weekend started on Friday night with a "Get Acquainted" activity which was a form of Bingo this year. The delegates moved around the room, introduced themselves and found someone who knew different pieces of information, primarily about Rotary. Following this "Get Acquainted" activity, the delegates and group leaders spent the next hour packing meals for Stop Hunger Now. Again this year, 10,000 food bags were packed which serves 60,000 individual and are be sent to areas where people do not have nutritional food.

Delegates were pre-assigned groups, each with a group leader. The group leaders were members of Rotaract Clubs, college age clubs sponsored by Rotary, at Delaware State, UMES and Washington College. This year the groups were put together based on the school they attended and the community where it is located. In some cases, the schools sent enough delegates to form a whole group while other groups were made up of several schools.



Long Neck Sunrise Rotary Club's RYLA delegates from Indian River High School (left to right): Helen Davis; Judy Hall, Club President; Sean Wilson, Jack Riddle, Assistant District Governor and Kennedy Butch.

The groups were assigned three main goals for the weekend – to pick a mascot, create a Group flag using the words that make up RYLA, and to create a community service project they took back to their school and community. The groups had several work sessions throughout the weekend to work on their project, which included a PowerPoint to be presented on Sunday afternoon before the other groups, staff, parents and Rotarian guests.

The delegates also had the opportunity to hear several speakers talk about a variety of subjects but all with a universal theme, "The Leader in You." Each of the speakers, throughout the weekend stressed, one person can make a difference and that each delegate was that person. The first two speakers who spoke, Eric Smith, "The Delaware Charity Company" and Chase Marvil, "The Inspiring Project" talked about the charities they started and the impact they have made. They, also, spoke about the use

of social media to accomplish their goals and to inspire people. Dr. Samantha Scott presented an important subject to the group through her talk "More Than Sad". She spoke about fighting teen depression and suicide and how "each delegate" could help someone battling these situations.

Saturday morning came to a close with "The Incredible Egg Drop". Each group had to create a package that will allow them to pack an egg and drop from the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors, without the egg breaking. Although a fun activity, it helps to teach the group members to work together to create a plan.

Saturday afternoon involved hands on team building activities and discussion groups on topics pertinent to their generation such as, drugs, conflict resolution, the environment, social media and how our communities are changing.

The fun activity to close the night was the Four-Way Theater Ethical Dilemma skits. Each group is given an ethical dilemma and had to create a skit as to how they would handle the situation. They are encouraged to use the Rotary Four-Way Test to come up with a solution.

Sunday morning, two Rotarians who have been with RYLA all five years, spoke to the group about their "what one person can do" stories. Kenny Wood, owner of a local well drilling company, travels to Africa 3-4 times per year to drill wells in communities that would not have water if it weren't for his efforts. Several years ago, he not only donated some of his equipment, but traveled to Africa to teach the people how to use the equipment – all at his own expense.

The weekend ended with all 12 groups doing their group presentations to the other groups and guests. Each group explained their project and why it was important. The group to which the teens sponsored by Long Neck Sunrise Rotary Club presented their proposal for a "Dog for a Doll" program. The group's project combined finding homes for abandoned pets with giving toys to children who might not otherwise get them. At the end of the presentations, each group votes on "the best presentation" without voting for their own. A group from Wicomico County, MD won the best project this year.

The Long Neck Sunrise Rotary Club meets weekly at 7:30 am on Tuesdays for breakfast at the Ocean Grill II on Long Neck Road. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome. Visit: [www.longnecksunriserotaryclub.com](http://www.longnecksunriserotaryclub.com) for more information.

### **About Rotary**

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work impacts lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit [Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org).

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