

Foundation Football

The Rotary Club of Franklin Noon started a new program to raise money for The Rotary Foundation and help members meet the EREY \$100 donation level back in 2009. The program was brought back from a district membership/foundation training session by Past President William Jones. Having just assumed the position of Foundation Chair for his club, he was looking for ideas to try and get the club fired up over TRF. The program was called Foundation Football and consisted of a competition among members to try and pick winning football teams. Right before the start of the college football season, members who were participating were asked to pick a college and a pro team for the season. They pledged to give \$5.00 for each win and 10 cents per point scored in each game through the season. So if as an example a team won and scored 28 points, that member would be in for $\$5.00 + \$2.80 = \$7.80$. The totals were tracked each week on an Excel spreadsheet and reported to the club. The leaders were praised for their football acumen and those at the other end were friendly ridiculed for their poor choices. At the end of the competition, the member with the biggest total contribution was crowned the winner and the club would add to their total to make them a Paul Harris Fellow.

In the four years since the inception of this program, the Franklin Noon Club has raised a total of \$29,231.70 and presented 4 Paul Harris Fellowships to club members. This works out to be \$149.90 per member. The scores have ranged from a low of \$82.40 to a high of \$266.60. The number of participants has ranged from 33 the first year to 53 last year. Each year more members are participating in the fun. New members are jumping in as fast as they join the club. The 2012 total was just shy of \$9,000.00. Immediate Past President Lawrence Sullivan, new Foundation Chair, hopes this will be the year we get enough club members involved to top \$10,000.00 in one year!

Having set his sights on a larger target, William Jones hopes that he can take Foundation Football district wide for 6760 as he prepares to be District Governor in 2015-16. Who knows how far this program can grow. Zones 30-31 has to have a lot of football fans who also give to TRF. If your club or District would like more information on Foundation Football, send an email to William at williamjones6760@comcast.net and he can get you more info as well as sending the current Excel sheet so you can see how it works.

Let's all work together to bring in more for our Foundation.