

LITERACY ADVOCATES



Developing this program will take time and dedication and will be a major undertaking unless participated in by a large group of interested Rotarians, supplemented by outside personnel with specialized skills and experience..

Since we have stated that we believe our efforts should be to provide training to individuals in literacy to the point that they possess, "the ability to read, write, reason and solve problems necessary to function in the community," it follows that we should seek specialized counselors adept in specialized areas commonly encountered by people new to our country and culture. This would include, but not be limited to, matters of interest to the legal profession, accounting, insurance claims, banking, construction, health & sanitation; a myriad of other subjects.

Actual Example

A Japanese war bride had been in this country for 50 years but was practically illiterate in every phase of our definition. Her husband had been dead for two years when she received a copy of a cancellation notice on a mortgage life insurance policy. This policy should have paid off her mortgage upon the passing of her husband but she did not know of the existence of the policy. Her mortgage will be paid off and she will receive several thousand dollars for the mortgage payments she continued to make. This lady needed (still does) help but it was a happenstance that she went to a friend for explanation of the cancellation letter from the insurance company.

To the average literate, native born, American the above example is almost laughable, but consider yourself being uprooted from your native culture and placed in a foreign land where you could barely handle the language, let along the intricacies of legal matters.

Legal matters are not the only troublesome problems recent immigrants face in our country. A committee of mentors experienced in various fields would be valuable to our newest citizens as they make the transition to the American way.
