

## SENIOR CLUB REPORT - ARTS ADVOCACY

AD 2-1

Due Date: *May 15 (2010 and 2011)*

State \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Senior Club \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person submitting report \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

It is becoming more and more vital that we advocate for the arts and arts education. Dana Gloria writes in his address to the 2007 Stanford graduates, "Art is an irreplaceable way of understanding and expressing the world – equal to but distinct from scientific and conceptual methods. Art addresses us in the fullness of our being – simultaneously speaking to our intellect, emotions, intuition, imagination, memory, and physical senses. There are some truths about life that can be expressed only as stories, or songs, or images. Art delights, instructs, consoles."

Please take some time and contemplate the simple things we can do to advocate for the arts. So, how are we doing?

*Arts mean business.* The total annual economic impact of non-profit arts activity as reported by Americans for the Arts in 2007 was \$166.2 billion. As of Jan. 2009, 2.8 million people were employed in the creative sector of our economy. Our club recognizes that the arts are vital to building strong, local economies.

\_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

*Students who participate in arts programs achieve higher academic success and are less likely to drop out of school.* Our Club members appreciate the positive impact the arts have in creating greater academic achievement.

\_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

*The arts are having a positive impact in healthcare, supporting physical, mental and emotional recovery of patients.* It is important for our club to recognize these new studies and support programs which endeavor to improve quality of health and life.

\_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

*Stories are important.* Our club understands that the stories we share about the positive impact the arts have on our communities are the best way to advocate for the arts. People remember success stories more than facts and figures.

\_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

*Club Action items.* Our club will include arts advocacy on our meeting agendas and will do our best to monitor arts issues by getting involved with regional arts councils, school boards, city councils, and state and national legislation. Our members are aware of these great websites and monitor:

www.americansforthearts.org and www.artsusa.org/get involved/advocate.asap. \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

*Individual Action items.* We will continue to be on boards of a community band, orchestra, chorus, opera, community theater, or jazz arts group. We will promote the arts by encouraging our students, friends and families to attend local concerts, theater events, visit museums and galleries, and to support local school music and arts education programs.

\_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

*Enthusiasm.* Our club is excited about becoming more involved in arts advocacy! \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Send a copy of this form to your state chairman. If there is no active state chairman, mail or email the report directly to the NFMCA Arts Advocacy Chairman: Sarah Twedt, 3676 Windtree Drive, Eagan, MN 55123; sarahtwedt@hotmail.com.

Please feel free to contact Sarah Twedt with questions or comments at (651) 688-0843 or via e-mail at: sarahtwedt@hotmail.com