



GORDON D. BARNES
SHIRLEY M. BARNES
6531 141ST STREET SW
EDMONDS, WASHINGTON 98026
(425) 743-6360 • (425) 745-8313

November 7, 2008

gdbarnes1@verizon.net

Ms. Corinne A. Gregory, President
sandgbarnes@verizon.net

Social Smarts

P. O. Box 3945

Bellevue, WA 98009

Dear Corinne:

Just a note to thank you again for your presentation on “Failure to Educate – Putting “Civil” Back Into Civilization”. Your key point that we need to strongly emphasize and teach civility and social skills early in the education system for that system to be fully productive is insightful and, we agree, true. If we can eliminate or greatly reduce the need for resources to be spent on behavioral problems, we can significantly improve our academic learning. In addition, we can build better lifetime social and interpersonal skills of great benefit to individuals and society.

You began your presentation with concepts Rotary has championed – service above self and the four way test. If we can build these concepts into young people rather than a “me first” or “only me” mentality, we can build a more respectful and cooperative student body, work force, and society. We become more effective team members, consensus builders and leaders. We diminish the arrogance and selfishness of the “ugly American” reputation and restore the true foundations of a democratic society.

In early October, Professor Michael Johnson of the UW Business School presented to our club an excellent program on building and leading high performance teams. The fact is that most of what we do is as a part of a team and what you are talking about are team member skills. These are crucial skills in the schools, in the workplace and in life.

In this effort, we do not want to take away or impair the worth, rights, and dignity of the individual, nor do we want to diminish the spirit of competitiveness – both are key American traits. Rather, we want to assure that the framework of law is expanded to include the civility of the four way test. For a variety of reasons, we have been losing social skills and we need to assure that they are learned early in life and put into practice..

Once again our thanks for an excellent presentation. Please come back and visit us often.

Sincerely,

GORDON D. BARNES

PROGRAM CHAIR, LYNNWOOD ROTARY

Cc: Jay Tveidt, Barbara Earl, David Kleitsch,