



Boys Republic

Annual Report For Fiscal Year 2017

President's Message

Timothy J. Kay
Board President

What a year 2016-2017 proved to be for Boys Republic! As I touched on in my message last year, the Boys Republic Board of Directors and staff knew that the passage of Assembly Bill 403, principally focused on the care of foster youth, would change the way Boys Republic would help the students in its care. AB 403 required Boys Republic to qualify as a short term residential therapeutic program certified by the counties and State of California. Led by Chris Burns and his senior staff, Boys Republic participated in the statewide preparation to roll out the new programs required by AB 403, ensuring that the needs of our students are well understood and addressed.

A big change required by AB 403 is to add a county-contracted mental health component to the care of our students. This meant hiring the right clinicians to become part of the Boys Republic teams that work with groups of students every day. Boys Republic has long used a peer group approach to instilling strong values in the students – emphasizing the importance of work, honesty, accountability and dedication to the tasks at hand. In these daily group sessions, BR students and staff

discuss their respective successes and failures in ways that have the more senior students helping newer arrivals to take responsibility for their mistakes and encouraging them to take responsibility for their lives. The clinicians who have joined the Boys Republic teams bring additional skill sets to the task of teaching the students how to lead responsible and productive lives.

While many other organizations that work with delinquent youth emphasize a purely mental health approach to treatment, Boys Republic continues to emphasize the importance of individual responsibility within the peer group. This is the key to Boys Republic's success – each person holds himself or herself accountable for his or her actions, and the peer group holds each other accountable as well.

The wonderful staff at Boys Republic is well prepared to meet the challenges of AB 403. The Board of Directors has encouraged and supported Chris Burns and senior staff as BR succeeds in the new legislative environment.

I am also happy to report that Boys Republic has a number of

enthusiastic volunteer supporters. Over a decade ago, a volunteer committee organized and delivered a wonderful Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show. Steve McQueen was a student at Boys Republic and BR held a special spot in his heart. With the active participation of Steve's son, Chad McQueen, a group of car buffs led by Ron Harris staged a car show on the BR campus on the first Saturday of June, 2008. This past June, the Car Show had its 10th anniversary. A sold out dinner and a silent auction kick off the Car Show on Friday night, raising money for BR. The next day, thousands of visitors walk the fields of the BR main campus, chock full of specialty cars and motorcycles. BR students direct traffic and serve the visitors during the day. The Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show raises money for Boys Republic, but even more importantly, builds a larger community of BR supporters. Thanks to Chad McQueen, Ron Harris, Peter Dunkel and their strong Car Show committee!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank each of you who support Boys Republic and believe in our mission and our ability to change our students lives for the better.