



Boys Republic

Annual Report For Fiscal Year 2018

President's Message

Larry Walker
Board President

This greeting is written as we approach the holiday season – a time for celebration, and a time for giving thanks. The holidays are also a time when we pause in our busy lives, and take time to be with family and friends, looking back to good times past, and ahead to the promise of the future. For many, Boys Republic fits right in with the holidays, because we have much to celebrate, and much to be thankful for.

I've been getting calls from all over the country, from family members who have received their Della Robbia wreaths in the past few days. These fresh, fragrant, combinations of fruit and greenery have become a symbol of Boys Republic over the years. In their creation, they are the product of the young men and women who are the focus of our efforts. They are also a mainstay of the fundraising work that sustains BR, and many who support our organization first experienced Boys Republic in a Della Robbia wreath.

As we pause and look back, we remember those who are no longer with us. Long time board member John Watkins stands out as a good example of a great leader who contributed profoundly to the growth and development of Boys Republic.

He was an effective leader and an amiable mentor, able to influence a large organization or relate to an individual board member, staff or student in a manner both supportive and challenging.

Another long-time friend of Boys Republic is Max Scott, who served as Executive Director at Boys Republic for many years. He continues to contribute significantly to life at Boys Republic, and his name will grace the Max Scott Center for the Culinary Arts, which is now one-third complete, and should be close to being finished by summer 2019. Funding for this incredible endeavor is largely accomplished as well.

A major source of that funding is the Steve McQueen Car and Motorcycle Show, which has become a phenomenal success in a single decade. What started out as a small car show has grown to a major event as a result of the hard work of Ron Harris, Chad McQueen, Peter Dunkel, their Car Show committee, and hundreds of volunteers.

But as with a family, the focus at Boys Republic is not on financial success, or on the facilities that continue to grow and serve. As in

1907, our purpose is to welcome young men, and more recently young women as well, whose lives have suffered from neglect, abuse, abandonment, and violence, and to teach and model a way of life that involves shouldering responsibility, understanding and accepting consequences, and working hard to accomplish important goals.

"Nothing without labor" is not just a slogan; it represents a way of life based on a real understanding of how the world works. One of the most rewarding aspects of service on the BR Board of Directors is seeing the success of those involved in the program. These successes range from simple victories on the daily path from acting out to being accountable for one's own actions, to completion of programs that teach valuable skills leading to gainful employment and participation as a contributing member of the community.

On behalf of the 2017-18 Board of Directors of Boys Republic, I thank every volunteer, every donor, every staff member and everyone else who makes it part of your life to contribute to the success of BR. Lives are changed here, and our lives are made better in the process.