

2018 RI Convention Brief

Some highlights from the Convention:

- The 109th annual international Rotary convention took place in Toronto on June 23–27, and it was expected to bring 24,000 Rotary club members from over 175 countries to the city
 - The actual number of Rotarians participating was 35,000
- A princess, 3 prime ministers, and a former first lady join Rotarians in Toronto
 - Princess Anne, expressed thanks to Rotary for taking a central role in working to eradicate polio.
 - Former first lady of the United States Laura Bush challenged Rotarians to keep early childhood education a priority.
 - Helen Clark, former prime minister of New Zealand and one of the architects of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, joined RI President Ian H.S. Riseley for a discussion about gender equality and the crucial link between the environment, poverty, hunger, and peace.
 - Haitian Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant addressed the convention (via video) before the announcement of the creation of HANWASH, a collaboration between Rotary and the Haitian government's water agency that will tackle Haiti's water and sanitation challenges.
 - Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, was presented the Rotary's Polio Eradication Champion Award
 - Canada is the third largest contributor to the polio eradication initiative
- Rotaract's 50th birthday
 - Take home message: "Rotaracts are not future Rotarians, they are today's Rotarians"
 - Call to engage more with Rotaracts groups
 - Our club will be reaching out to Rotaracts clubs to look for opportunities to work together.
 - Maricelis reached out to the Cornell Rotaract Club and will follow-up with them at the beginning of the semester
- Needs to be addressed (**Jeff True**):
 - There is Need to address diversity within Rotary Leadership
 - There is an increasing disconnect between the RI Directors/Leadership and 'regular' Rotarians on the issue of a complete lack of women in leadership roles (i.e zero women RI Directors this year)
 - Membership (i.e RI has had a level 1.2 million members since 1995; the fastest growing age group in Rotary is 60+ with Ages 25 - 60 are in decline).
- **Call to Action in the Six Areas of Service- What's new or ongoing?**
 - Peace and conflict prevention/resolution (**Nancy Potter**)-
 - Rotary Peace Fellows and the Institute for Economics and Peace
 - Strategic partnership to promote 'positive peace'

- Empirical research on attitudes, institutions and structures for more peaceful societies
 - Rotary's grassroots work in communities around the globe...so many ways Rotarians can inspire and be involved, including an online peace academy and community engagement
 - RAG for Peace - Peacebuilder Comm with our club?
 - RI and Peace Corps partnership to strengthen community-level engagement that promotes sustainability
- Disease prevention and treatment
 - 22 reported cases of Polio in 2017 – Pakistan and Afghanistan
 - 11 cases YTD in 2018
- Water and sanitation (**Dennis Gray, Nancy Potter and George Gull**)
 - Take home message:
 - WASH in health care facilities – great need; future area of focus for water and sanitation projects?
 - Understand the issues in bringing water to Health Facilities where medical staff lack clean water for maternity and child wards.
 - Special Incentive for WASH projects that are vetted by WASRAG for grants - \$500 plus another \$500 if for school wash project. (The Rotary Club of Box Hill Central in Australia (district 9810 and Mark Balla)
- Economic and community development (**Maricelis Acevedo**) –
 - **Potential areas of involvement:**
 - **Sustainability**; agriculture; microfinance;
 - For every 1% increase in agricultural income per capita reduces the number of people living in extreme poverty by between 0.6% and 1.8%.
 - Agriculture is the main source of income and employment for the 70% of the world's poor who live in rural areas.
 - Studies find strong evidence that access to microcredit leads to reduced vulnerability, in the sense of a lower threat of fluctuations in income or consumption.
 - In Nigeria, studies show that a mere 1% investment in human resources such as education and training will lead to a more than 66% decrease in poverty.
- Community assessments (**Dennis Gray**)-
 - Take home message
 - “Avoid going into a community with ideas of what's needed. Instead, listen to community members and hear their community's strengths, needs, and concerns directly. You want to identify activities that respond to felt needs and generate a

high level of enthusiasm from community members so that participation and ownership is ensured.”

- Focus on skill-building with the community rather than just discussing needed materials or items of infrastructure.
 - Encouraging significant shift to program support of behavior change as part of capacity building
- Global Grants:
- Grant Application will be streamlined to the area of service
 - Community assessment are essential - starting 1 July, any club or district that applies for a global grant to support a humanitarian project or a vocational training team must conduct a [community assessment](#) first and include the [results](#) in their grant application
 - Sustainability- include plans for long-term success after the global grant funds have been spent
- Closing (**Maricelis**):
- The [2019 Rotary International Convention](#) will meet in Hamburg, Germany, 1-5 June. **Be the Inspiration**
 - WASRAG - Friday, May 31, **2019**. Registration 7:00 am. Program 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. **Achieving Lasting Impact**