



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Rotary Crossroads

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Proud of our Heritage, Committed to our Future

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Inspiration AROUND EVERY CORNER

Rotary



ROTARY CONVENTION
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA
23-27 JUNE 2018
riconvention.org

1 IN FOCUS

Attending Rotary
International
Conventions – By
HM PP Raymon Huang

3 LAST WEEK

Report on Wed, 21 Mar
2018 Meeting

6 MARK YOUR DIARY

What's ahead? Don't miss
the forthcoming events and
Birthday / Anniversary
celebrants and more...

Attending Rotary International Conventions

By: Honorary Member (HM) PP Raymon Huang



HM PP Raymon Huang

Some may feel these are early days to talk about attending Rotary International Conventions. This Rotary Year, the R I Convention will be held on 24 – 27 June, in Toronto, Canada.

It is a sure bet that attendees will form one of the biggest Conventions ever, with multiple thousands of Americans and Canadians participating, being nearest home. The Japanese Rotarians usually come by the plane-loads. Rotarians from Europe and Asia, South America, Africa and Australia usually attend in droves. Exactly what R I wishes to see.

These worldwide Rotary Conventions are meant “to stimulate, inspire and inform all Rotarians at an international level. A simple ruling vis-à-vis these International Conventions is that “it should not be held in the same country for more than two consecutive years”. An R I Convention is actually a “business meeting”, to conduct the business of Rotary, which, as we know, is basically “Service”. The host country usually takes years – three, four, five – to get everything go “click – click”! It is a massive planning process.

I have attended several of these R I Conventions – in the same city, Toronto, Canada, in 1985, in Melbourne, Australia in 1993, and Singapore in 1999, etc. Each one a Rotary learning experience, a renewing Rotary journey. The Conventions in Melbourne and Singapore were particularly memorable for me. An R I Convention is indeed a “discovery” trip to learn about “The real internationality of Rotary”. Attendances of 20, 30 to 40 thousands are the norm, depending on the location. The Toronto Convention in 1985 had over 30,000 attendees. Conventioneers from Japan came by the plane-loads, several chartered.

An International Convention is particularly good for the newer or comparatively new Rotarian. It is where a really widespread sharing of Rotary takes place. The huge wildfire of sharing Rotary experiences and stories will hit you, like it or not. In any case that is the very reason why so many of us attend these R I Conventions. Even Rotarians from tiny “Red Dot” Singapore have lots to share with Rotarians from elsewhere. I do recall PDG Dr Philbert Chin, and the late PDG Tan Geok Tian, telling audiences their Rotary experiences, at the Toronto Convention. And well received too. Many were surprised. Quite a few did not even know where Singapore was! So attending such a Convention is flying SG’s flag as well.

In any case, it is the duty and responsibility of the more seasoned Rotarians to share Rotary with the newer ones. “Sharing Rotary” is indeed an obligation, so long as the other party is receptive. Apart from the initial information-sharing about attending meetings, paying dues, and participating in the Club’s programmes and projects – proposing qualified persons for a Rotary Club membership to help Rotary expand, and extend its network of service to mankind. One will find this aspect of being a Rotarian emphasized strongly at any International Convention.



In Focus

I suppose at this Rotary Year's R I Convention in Toronto, a lot of issues concerning ageing will be addressed, as the world greys. The "Silver Tsunami" is indeed a concern for many a nation. Personally, I hope the issue will be emphasized.

But, of course, other similar serious issues – like hunger, clean water, sanitation, homelessness, diseases, etc. – will form a substantial part of the Convention's programme. Because all this concerns "Saving Humanity" and helping to "Make A Difference", which mission is the reason for Rotary's existence.

Do make an effort – a real one! – to attend at least one R I International Convention. It is an eye-opener. A place for a truly, great international fellowship. Some of the new friendships will be long-lasting, forming new networks. And your knowledge of Rotary will be enhanced well beyond your expectations. I speak from personal experience, as would many of our Club members.

During your free time, there are two "must visit" areas of a Convention; one is "The House of Friendship", where old acquaintances are renewed, new friendships made, and great fellowship experienced; the other is the Exhibition of Rotary Publications, where very useful reference materials, the latest information on Rotary, and an amazing array of Rotary literature, are available at reasonable prices. Some are free. The Souvenir stalls selling Rotary items are worth a visit too – a place where you enjoy spending your spare US Dollars!

So do start planning to attend the Toronto R I Convention on 24 – 27 June 2018. Substantial Early-bird Registration discounts are available.

By the way, the month of March has been for years now, ever since HM PP Bhagwan Melwani's Presidency (1975-76), celebrated in our Club as "Youth/New Generations Month". For Rotary International "World Rotaract Week" is the week in which March 13 falls – a time when "Rotary clubs and districts highlight Rotaract by joining in projects with their Rotaract Clubs". At the international scene, R I this year observes and designates the month of March as "Water and Sanitation Month", a very important aspect of Rotary's global effort in "Serving Humanity" and "Making A Difference".



Last Week

Last Week – Report on the Wednesday Meeting – 21 March 2018

OPENING REMARKS

The Meeting was called to order by Acting Sergeant-at-Arms Rtn Robert Craiu who invited President Keith to take the Chair. President Keith, sporting his new Rotary bow-tie received at the recently concluded District Assembly, warmly welcomed the Guest Speaker Dr Chua Ai Lin.

WELCOME

Welcome of guests of members and visiting Rotarians was performed by Rtn Sylvia Chung, who was doing so for the first time:

Guests:

Speaker, Dr Chua Ai Lin &
Mr Victor Yue (Singapore Heritage Society)
Ms Nandita Mukand
Mr Tommy Schlumpf
Mr Andrew Thomas

Visiting Rotarians:

PP Tony Broghammer – Grenchen, Switzerland
Martha Broghammer – Inner Wheel, Switzerland
Nadine Broghammer – Zurich, Switzerland
Stephan Bucher – Palmengarten, Germany
Gordon Jones – Chichester Priory, UK
Debi Prosad Bandopadhyay – Tagoreland, India



Rtn Sylvia Chung

TOAST & BANNER PRESENTATION



Toastmaster Rtn Horst Hagemann (right) called on members to raise a toast to the 3 Swiss Clubs represented at the meeting & to Rotary International



President Keith exchanged banners with the Broghammer family – PP Tony, Rtns Martha & Nadine (from left to right)



Visiting Rtn Debi Prosad Bandopadhyay (centre) presented 3 landscape prints for President, Hon. Secretary & Treasurer



From right: President Keith, Rtn Stephan Bucher & Rtn Horst

Last Week

DISTAS PRESIDENTS-ELECT TRAINING SEMINAR, DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY

President Keith advised that two events took place last week – DISTAS in Johor Bahru from 15 to 18 March 2018. He reminded members to register as well for the next District Conference to be held in Kota Kinabalu (11 to 13 May) where there will be presentation of Awards as well as great fellowship. Following are some photos taken at DISTAS:



PE Mark Wang receives the RI Theme (RY 2018-19) Banner from incoming DG Henry Tan



Club members with District Officers at the DISTAS Governor's Banquet

"GREY CAN STILL PLAY" – ICC SIGNATURE PROJECT

President Keith advised that "Grey Can Still Play" signature project organized by the Interact Coordinating Committee (ICC) was an enormous success with a house cleaning session and a fun carnival held on Saturday, 17 March 2018. Following photos were shown to members (a full report will be featured in the bulletin).



The Interactors geared up and ready to start their house cleaning session



Elderly participants having fun at the Carnival

MAJOR PROJECT FOR ROTARY YEAR 2017-2018

President Keith stated that next week's speaker from FootballPlus Singapore will describe the existing programme and recommendation to extend the training for more mentors and coaches to benefit further needy children. The proposal would be to raise additional funding for the programme to be extended until the end of the year.

Last Week

Speaker: Dr Chua Ai Lin, Executive Director
Singapore Heritage Society

Topic: *“Giving a future to our past: why Singapore heritage matters”*

President Keith called on Rtn Joseph Chia who introduced Guest Speaker, Dr Chua Ai Lin, the Executive Director of the Singapore Heritage Society (SHS). Dr Chua served as SHS President from 2013 till 2017, and has been a member of the Society since 1996. She holds a PhD in History from the University of Cambridge (UK) and was previously an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the National University of Singapore, specialising in Singapore social and cultural history. Currently, she serves as a member of the National Library Advisory Committee and in the past has been on the advisory board of the National Heritage Board, and on the former UNESCO Singapore Sub-Commission on Culture and Information.

Interestingly, Rtn Joseph advised that Dr Chua's great-grandfather, Mr Ng Sen Choy was the Club's Vice President in 1936 and again after World War II for Rotary year 1945-46! Dr Chua showed a photograph of her great-grandfather with a gathering of Rotarians at his home in 1936.

Dr Chua introduced the work conducted by Singapore Heritage Society, which was founded by the pioneering local architect, William S.W. Lim, based on the idea of 'heritage as the living presence of the past'. In her presentation, Dr Chua cited that heritage was more than just old buildings, and in fact, encompasses also the intangible, such as languages, beliefs and practices, crafts and performing arts, which could be found in important heritage sites like Pulau Ubin, Bukit Brown and Chinatown and as well as in our everyday lives. To conclude her talk, Dr Chua invited members to join SHS and attend their talks and walking tours.



*Speaker, Dr Chua Ai Lin with
Rtn Joseph Chia*



From left: Rtn Jamshid Medora, Dr Chua & President Keith

To extend the Club's vote of thanks to Dr Chua, President Keith called on Rtn Jamshid Medora, whom he added was celebrating the Parsi New Year. Rtn Jamshid advised that 21 March, was the first day of Spring and was celebrated in many parts of the world. Rtn Jamshid warmly thanked Dr Chua whom he described as a dynamic person, who worked pro bono for SHS for the past 4 years. He noted that SHS survives on personal donations and volunteers, as do Rotary Clubs in doing "Service Above Self".



Mark Your Diary

Birthday Celebrants

RC sends Birthday greetings to celebrants this week:

Amit Chatterjee

Anniversary Celebrants

RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants this week:

Raj & Melanie Vaswani
Michael & Gilberte King
Hiroaki & Yuri Miyauchi

Community Service Meeting

Community Service Committee Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, 5 April

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: YWCA Singapore, Fort Canning Lodge, 6 Fort Canning Road, S179494

Hosts: PP Philip Leong & VP James Lee

This Meeting

28 March 2018

Reception Desk duty: PE Mark Wang, Manish Tibrewal
Sunshine Box: PPs Alan Tan, Dr Yap Lip Kee

Speaker: Mr Loh Ngiap Tai, Managing Director, FootballPlus Singapore

Topic: "Champions" Football Programme

Vocational Service Meeting

Vocational Service Committee Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday, 12 April

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Function Room (for meeting), St Regis Residence, 33 Tanglin Road, Tower C #16-08 (for dinner)

Host: Rtn Vishal Nanwani



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Next Meeting

4 April 2018

Reception Desk duty: PP Dr Yap Lip Kee, Bertrand De Mil
Sunshine Box: PP Peter Tan, Deblina Chatterjee

Speaker: Mr Prem Kumar, Director, Singapore After-Care Association

Topic: To be advised

Coming Rotary Events

March

Water and Sanitation Month
31 Mar – Collective Tree-planting

April

Maternal and Child Health Month
Minority Vocational School Mission Visit
7 Apr – Rotary Walk for The Rotary Foundation
15 Apr – Rotary Charity Run – Kuching
29 Apr – Swimathon in aid of EndPolio and the Major Project

May

Youth Service Month
11-13 May – District Conference
27-28 May – RC Osaka Semba's 30th anniversary celebrations

June

Rotary Fellowship Month
24-27 June – R I Convention, Toronto, Canada





The Guide to Daily Living

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the Precepts of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

First: *Have I spent some time in self-examination?*

Second: *Have I spent quality time with my family?*

Third: *Have I given my best to my work?*

Fourth: *Have I given some time to someone near and far?*

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

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