Dear Family of Rotarian Convention Goers:

I am writing this as your new, interim Chairman. Two years ago in New Orleans, I was named the Vice Chairman of our Fellowship and PRIVP Lou Piconi was named our new Chairman, succeeding our founder PRIP Frank J. Devlyn. Last year in Bangkok, Lou was not able to join us as he was once again battling Cancer. In December of 2012, Lou’s long battle ended. Per our fellowship’s bylaws, I automatically assumed the position of Chairman. I am honored to serve as your Chairman in spite of the unfortunate circumstances by which I came to this position. Director Barry Levinson from Rotary District 7080 (USA) has been named the new Vice Chairman. We have not as yet filled Barry’s position as Director but will be doing so shortly.

On June 30, 2013, we completed our eighth year as an official Rotary Fellowship. During the Lisbon convention we enrolled 28 new members and now have a total membership of 471 from 42 countries. As always, each of us needs to encourage our fellow Rotarians to become actively involved in our fellowship. Remember that it is at the international conventions that Rotarians experience the true internationality of Rotary.

For the third year in a row our Fellowship hosted the annual “Reunion Dinner” for our Convention Goers Fellowship, the RAG for Blindness Prevention and the Devlyn Amigos. More than 240 attended the event which was held at the wonderful Corinthia Hotel in Lisbon. As usual, it was a huge success. During this year’s event we honored our Past Chairman PRIVP Lou Piconi with a tribute and collected $400 in his name to eradicate Polio.

For the eighth consecutive year, our fellowship partnered with Rotary International to offer the annual “First Time Convention Attendees Orientation” sessions. There were two sessions this year with 1000+ “first-timers” in attendance. We will once again repeat this activity in Sydney next year. Through these orientation sessions, we’ve helped to make the convention a more meaningful experience for
those who were attending their very first RI Convention. This year, for the third time, each attendee was given a “goal sheet”. After participating in the session, they were shown how to use the sheets to set their convention goals and plan their activities for the entire week. Once again it was as successful as it had been in New Orleans.

In addition, the session this year taught everyone how to use the new APP that had been developed for smart phones so they could get everything possible out of the experience.

Remember, for many years, there was a group of us that met informally at International Conventions but it was not until 2005 that we became an official fellowship.

We are a great organization with a very important presence at each Rotary convention and your support makes all of this possible.

I look forward to seeing you in Sydney next year where we will cruise the Sydney Harbor for our Reunion Dinner.

PDG John Brodbeck

SEARCHING FOR A NEW DIRECTOR

We now have a vacancy on our Fellowship’s Board of Directors due to the passing of our Chairman PRIVP Lou Piconi. If you are an active Convention Goer (ie: regularly attend RI Conventions) and are interested in serving as a Board member, please contact our Executive Secretary, Harriett Schloer at

in2dtp@gmail.com
Here’s our Fellowship double booth which we once again shared with the RAG for Blindness Prevention. Great location this year!

Food, Food, and more food in the HOF and lots of pork in every variety imaginable. DELICIOUS!!

Exec. Sec. Harriett with new member Lucy from Kenya.

As usual the Flag Ceremony during the Opening Plenary was AWESOME!

RAG for BP Board Member PDG Manjit Sawheny and Rita at the MD Dinner

We are “This Close” to Ending Polio Now

The World’s Largest Photo Album (Guinness World Record)
If you know a Rotarian who will be attending their first RI convention, be sure to make them aware of this “First Timers Checklist”. They are embarking on an experience that will inspire them, inform them about Rotary on an international level, and provide them with resources and motivation to move their Rotary club forward.

They will learn about strengthening their clubs and identifying service and fellowship opportunities by attending an RI Convention and listening to speakers, participating in workshops, visiting the Club and District Projects Exhibition, and talking to fellow Rotarians and other members of the family of Rotary.

During the meeting, they’ll experience the international nature of Rotary. Tell them to expect to encounter Rotarians and guests from all over the world, united in the spirit of Rotary and the ideal of service.

### Convention checklist

**First stop:** registration. With your registration, ticket confirmation, and photo ID in hand, you will pick up your convention materials, usually at the convention center. Your registration packet should include name badges, any pre-purchased RI event tickets, vouchers, opening plenary session tickets, program books, and transportation guides. The program book and transportation guide are your key convention resources.

**After that,** be sure to:

- **Get credentialed** at the voting delegates booth. If you’re a delegate or proxy for your club, you need to bring the validated voting delegate form to become credentialed.
- **Pick up ribbons,** language stickers, and attendance stickers at the ribbon booth.
- **Attend one of the orientations** for first-time convention goers. (The two sessions take place the Saturday before the convention begins.)
- **Pick up your Host Organizing Committee (HOC) gift bag** with the voucher in your registration packet.
- **Gather materials** at the information booth about local activities.
- **Visit next year’s convention booth,** and register in advance.
- **Enjoy the House of Friendship** (HOF), including the Internet cafe, local entertainment, message board, and fine local cuisine.
- **Visit Global Networking Group booths** to find out more about the many vocational and recreational fellowships and Rotarian action groups.
- **Visit the Club and District Projects Exhibition** to learn about what other clubs and districts are doing to serve others. Your club may be interested in similar projects.
- **Shop for Rotary items** at RI-licensed vendor booths. Purchase local products at the HOC’s Business Expo.
- **Visit the web site** to keep up with the latest convention news.

http://www.conventiongoers.org

### Meet our Board of Directors & RI Staff Liaisons

During the New Orleans Convention, at our annual meeting, the following new fellowship officers were elected:

**Chairman:**
PDG John Brodbeck
District 6110 USA
Email: jmbmjb@cox.net

**Vice Chairman:**
Barry Levinson
District #7980 (USA)
Email: barry@robertsav.com

**Permanent Honorary Chair:**
PRIP Frank J. Devlyn
District #4170 (Mexico)
Email: devlynf@devlyn.com.mx

**Executive Secretary:**
Harriett H. Schloer
District #5110 (USA)
Email: ln2dtp@gmail.com

**Treasurer:**
PRID T. D. Griley
District #6690 (USA)
Email: tdg-dlg@hotmail.com

**Director:**
PDG Phyllis J. Nusz
District 5150 (USA)
Email: pjnusz@aol.com

**Director:**
Brigitte Cummings
District #3450 (Mongolia)
Email: ubcummings@gmail.com

**Director:**
Currently Vacant

In addition to our Board members, we are also privileged to have two Rotary Staff Liaisons that work closely with us in preparation for the Convention each year. They are as follows:

**RI Staff Liaison:**
L. J. Williams
RI Director of International Meetings
Email: jl.williams@rotary.org

**RI Staff Liaison:**
Moira Sullivan
RI Sr. Marketing Communications Specialist for International Meetings
Email: moira.sullivan@rotary.org

These are the individuals who are leading our organization for the current Rotary year. Feel free to contact any of them at any time if you have any questions or need assistance in any way.
Safety Tips for Convention Attendees . . . And the Reasons They are Important!

On Page 4 we provide you with a “Checklist for first time convention attendees. This list of Safety Tips has been prepared to help insure that you will have a fun and SAFE convention experience.

1. Do not carry your passport with you once you arrive at your destination. Make a copy of the passport if you so desire and carry it with you but leave your actual passport at the hotel. If the room you are staying in has a safe, lock it in the safe. If it doesn’t, consider leaving it in the hotel safe. Most important, do NOT CARRY IT WITH YOU. If it is stolen or you lose it, obtaining a new one in order to get home will be difficult, frustrating, and time-consuming and will delay your return home (which will cost you a great deal of extra money.)

2. Do not carry all of your cash with you. Only carry what you need for a specific day and leave the rest of your cash in your hotel room safe or in the hotel safe to get you through the convention should you lose your money or be robbed. Otherwise, you could easily end up at the convention with no money at all and have difficulty getting home.

3. Keep at least one credit card in your hotel room or in the hotel safe or better yet, only carry one credit card with you and leave the rest in your hotel room safe. As almost all airlines request that you scan a credit card with your name in order to get your boarding pass, you will need to have a credit card in your possession at the airport when you depart for home or obtaining a boarding pass will be very time-consuming and you could miss a flight.

4. Upon departing the convention center each and every day, DO NOT WEAR YOUR CONVENTION BADGE! When you do, you become an instant target. Take it off and put it somewhere out of sight. If you are taking advantage of Rotary international transportation to and from your hotel, you can leave it on until you return to your room but then leave it in your room if you plan to go out during the evening.

5. Do not carry your commemorative convention bag as you walk around the city. Convention bags are just like convention badges. They are highly visible and quickly identify you as a tourist target because the convention logo is LARGE and highly visible on the bag even from a distance. Leave the bag in your hotel room, and use another plain bag that you can carry things in.

6. Prior to leaving for the convention, purchase special handbags (for the ladies) such as “cross body” bags with special security straps that cannot be sliced or cut, and security wallets (for the man) from websites such as Travel Smith to protect your credit cards and cash while you are walking around the city. These websites offer valuable tips for travelers and outstanding products that can help you be safe and thwart the attempts of thieves to steal your bags and wallets.

http://www.travelsmith.com

7. Finally, maybe most important of all, Do NOT go anywhere alone, especially at night!

This is the 2nd time that we’ve offered security tips for Convention Attendees (which will also be posted on the web site) and there is a very specific reason we decided to do so.

Member Robbed at Knife Point

In New Orleans, on Tuesday night before the close of the convention, one of our own members, Brigitte Cummings (Board member) was walking home from dinner (she was alone), when she was attacked on the street, at gunpoint, and her purse was stolen with everything in it except her passport. They got all of her cash and her credit cards. She was not wearing her badge, nor was she carrying her convention bag but she was alone and thus a prime target.

Brigitte spent most of Tuesday night at the police station with sketch artists and had incredible cooperation from the NOLA police. She cancelled her credit cards immediately, but had no cash. Chase bank, arranged for her to receive cash on Wednesday morning. A new credit card was waiting for her when she returned home. She’s grateful that she was not carrying her passport. The police felt that they had a good chance of catching the person and asked Brigitte if she would be willing to come back to New Orleans to testify at the trial. When she told them she’d be glad to, but she lived in Mongolia they told her that didn’t matter. They were more concerned about putting people who commit armed robbery behind bars than they are about the cost of a round-trip ticket from Mongolia.

Brigitte has been a member of the fellowship since the beginning (one of the very first to join the fellowship) and she is charming and feisty! Those who robbed her are probably lucky she wasn’t armed!

Brigitte was very lucky and we are all grateful for that, but the outcome could have been very different. That is why it is important to keep all of these safety tips in mind. There are plenty of opportunities for fellowship and to shop as well as sightsee at our international convention cities. If you follow these recommendations, your visit to the convention will be fun, exciting, filled with Rotary fellowship, and SAFE!

Brigitte will be staffing our booth in Sydney next year (as she does each year). Stop by and get to know her. She is a true character, a wonderful Rotarian, and a dedicated Fellowship member. We are lucky to have her!
Luggage Tags for Promoting the Conventions

In Lisbon our fellowship jumped right in to help promote the 2014 Convention in Sydney, Australia. To help in this task, we created a promotional business card for the Sydney Convention (see right). We printed 1000 of these and took them with us to Lisbon along with a laminating machine and all of the materials needed to make free luggage tags.

Once we set up our booth, we offered anyone and everyone the opportunity to have free luggage tags made.

We used the promotion card shown and backed it with the personal business card of the Rotarian. By the time the convention was over, we had used all 1000 of the luggage tags and now those tags are attached to luggage around the world for everyone to see. Not only are they promoting the annual convention, they are also promoting Rotary. The tags we made for the convention cost us less than 10 cents each.

Look for us again next year when we’ll be making tags for the Sao Paulo convention in Brazil in 2015. You are welcome to help us in the booth in Sydney if you’d like to make some luggage tags!

Historic R.I. Convention Logos . . . How Many Have YOU Attended?

Register NOW for the 2014 Convention in Sydney