

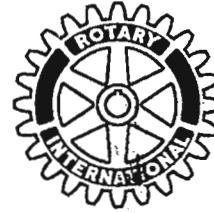
1995 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



NICE, FRANCE

11-14 JUNE

"BE A FRIEND"



1. Title slide. The theme of the 1995 Rotary International Convention in Nice, France, was "Be A Friend." This was the 86th annual convention of R.I., and the 10th convention held in continental Europe.
2. *"Rendez-vous à Nice!"* The dynamic, sunny, seaside city of Nice welcomed 34,077 Rotarians and guests from 137 countries and geographical areas. Shops and cafes on virtually every street displayed friendly banners and the Rotary gear-wheel emblem. This was the third time (after 1937 and 1967) that Nice hosted a Rotary convention.
3. First stop for most Rotarians was the bustling registration area in the Acropolis, where participants picked up badges, program books, voting delegate credentials, and tickets. The turnout made the 1995 convention the third largest in Rotary history. The event also set records as the largest meeting ever held in Nice, and ~~the~~ largest convention in Europe.
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4. The Acropolis, the city's state-of-the-art meeting center, served as the venue for many convention activities, including registration and luncheons; Secretariat, Home Hospitality, host club, and Fellowship booths, and the House of Friendship. ~~For many, the convention actually started a few days in advance of the opening ceremony. Preliminary events included the International Institute (chaired by Past R.I. Director Marcelino B.S. Chaves of Portugal), and meetings for Rotaractors and Youth Exchange officers.~~
- ~~5. A capacity crowd of 1,700 attended the Paul Harris Fellows luncheon on Sunday, 11 June at the Urbapole banqueting facility. Foundation Alumnus Bertrand Munier delivered the keynote address. Dr. Munier is Professor of Economics at the prestigious École Normale Supérieure of France. A Rotary Foundation Scholar at Princeton University (U.S.A.) in 1967-68, Dr. Munier described his year of study as a "unique human experience in international understanding."~~
6. Nice's spacious Palais des Expositions, a 10-minute walk from the Acropolis, was the site of all the convention's plenary sessions. For these sessions, simultaneous interpretation (as needed) was provided in English, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish.

7. Here's a wide-angle view of the 12,500-seat ~~Paris~~ ^{Palace} interior during the opening session, which was presented twice in order to accommodate afternoon and evening standing-room-only crowds.

~~8. R.I. Convention Chairman Carlo Ravizza of Italy presided over introductory formalities, including a cheerful welcome to Nice.~~

9. After Chairman Carlo's remarks came the dramatic and colorful presentation of the flags of the Rotary world. ~~R.I. Director Richard E. Burnett of Kansas, U.S.A., handled the commentary~~ ^{Calling the Convention to order} as local Rotarians and their families presented the flags of the Rotary family's 152 countries—concluding with Rotary's three newest countries: Mongolia, Cambodia, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

10. Next, ~~Past R.I. Treasurer and Director Douglas Inrie Brown of Wales~~ ^{the audience was} introduced ~~the audience~~ to the family of 1994-95 R.I. President Bill Huntley and ~~First Lady~~ ^{his wife} Audrey ~~Huntley~~.

11. A smiling R.I. President Bill Huntley of ~~Alford St. Mablethorpe~~, England, joined in welcoming participants to the convention. In his opening address, President Bill emphasized both the accomplishments and challenges of Rotary. He spoke of the 1994-95 success of Community Concerns, which— "by allowing Rotarians to work hand in hand with the civic leaders and authorities has given us a great boost in our public image." But he also asked Rotarians to take a close look at the organization's structure and determine if its rules and policies are relevant as we face the 21st century. "Rotary is not just something written on slips of paper. Rotary is engraved on the hearts of men and women everywhere. The Rotary dream is an ideal to be served, not simply a form to be followed."

12. Following President ~~Bill~~ ^{HUNTLEY'S} address, the audience enjoyed a dazzling entertainment extravaganza of music, dance, and acrobatics celebrating French culture. Performances included "La Ciamada Nissarda," a troupe of Niçois folk dancers...

13. ballet by 20 international members of the Princess Grace Academy of Classical Dance (founded by the late Princess Grace of Monaco)...

14. and a flashy, skirt-tossing traditional can can dance, ~~performed to the sprightly strains of Jacques Offenbach's "Gaieté Parisienne."~~

- ~~15. After a grand finale featuring all the show's performers, a can can dancer held the official bell so President Bill could bring the session to a close.~~

16. The Rotary Village, an impressive community of tents in Nice's Jardin Albert 1er (King Albert I Garden), between the Acropolis and the sea, was another important convention venue. The Village— also open to the general public— housed a technology display, vendors' booths, and an outdoor cafe.
17. But the Village's most important neighborhood was the "Friends in Service Projects Exhibition," featuring displays of 39 outstanding Rotary club and district projects. Rotarian volunteers were on hand to provide information about projects focusing on literacy, the environment, the homeless, drug abuse prevention, and the elderly. Pictured here is the "Adopt a Polio Lab" project display of the Rotary Club of Marietta, Georgia, U.S.A. This project to accelerate Rotary's PolioPlus Program has raised more than U.S. \$80,000 to equip regional polio reference laboratories in Moscow, Russia, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Its supporters plan to open more surveillance laboratories around the world.
18. At the start of the second plenary session on Monday morning, Tadashi Keima, 1994-95 governor of R.I. District 2680 in Japan, took the podium. Governor Keima's district includes Kobe, the Japanese city struck by a severe earthquake on 17 January. He had requested a public opportunity to thank Rotarians from around the world for their generous assistance in relief efforts. "I am deeply moved at the size and strength of our worldwide ring of friendship," he said.
19. Later, 1994-95 R.I. Treasurer and Director Gerson Gonçalves of Brazil gave a report on the organization's finances. Rotary, he said, is in good fiscal condition, with sound investment strategies and a pragmatic five-year financial forecast. But, since 60 percent of the organization's revenue comes from membership dues, it is crucial that club membership expand in the future.
20. Next, R.I. General Secretary Herbert A. Pigman of Boswell, Indiana, U.S.A., gave his status report on Rotary worldwide. "Rotary is growing in numbers and in service," he reported. "This positive growth is a cause for both celebration and concern. Celebration, because the work of Rotary is done by people, and we have more of them....But there is a red light blinking on the control panel. The membership chart shows a declining rate of growth....Will Rotary follow the pattern of some organizations which once flourished, declined, and then disappeared?" After this warning, Herb noted Rotary's powerful ability to renew itself, and asked Rotarians worldwide to maintain and expand club membership.
21. The final segment of the program was the presentation of the Rotary Award for World Understanding, the organization's highest honor. Previous award recipients include Pope John Paul II, Dr. Albert Sabin, and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The 1995 recipient of this esteemed award is the late James P. Grant, humanitarian, children's advocate, and former executive director of UNICEF.

Accepting for Mr. Grant was former director of the U.S. Peace Corps Carol Bellamy, appointed as UNICEF executive director on 1 May. Ms. Bellamy accepted from President Huntley the award's crystal flame sculpture and a check for U.S. \$100,000 from The Rotary Foundation of R.I., which will be used by UNICEF for polio eradication efforts. In her remarks, Ms. Bellamy praised Rotary's global humanitarian efforts, particularly PolioPlus. "Rotary International is a major presence," she said, "a major doer of good works on the world scene. With 1.2 million community leaders in 152 countries among your ranks, Rotary has won a place of respect in the global village— in fact, Rotary has helped *make* the world a global village."

- 22. Throughout the convention, a Rotary fleet of 200 buses navigated on 24 routes through the French Riviera's crowded infrastructure, carrying Rotarians between all convention venues and 182 hotels, from Monaco to Cannes.

- 23. One place seeing lots of action— and relaxation— was the House of Friendship in the Acropolis. It was a spot in which to rest, enjoy conversation, or have a snack. On-stage entertainment ranged from *haute couture* fashion shows (shown here) to folk music performances.

~~24. On another level of the Acropolis, participants could sign up for a Rotary Recreational or Vocational Fellowship (such as Home Exchange, shown here), visit with Secretariat staff, view new Rotary videos, or— best of all— make new friends.~~

- 25. ~~High point of the Monday afternoon plenary was the address by Her Excellency Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, wife of President Hosni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Her topic: "Women, Children, and Education." She noted: "Together, women, children, and education make the three pillars that decide the level and quality of each society, and eventually of the world. Not to empower women is to deprive the world of half its potential input. Neglecting the proper formation of the minds and bodies of our children affects the fate of future generations."~~

- 26. Although matters of state prevented him from appearing at the convention, ~~King Hussein~~ King Hussein of Jordan sent a video greeting via satellite. King Hussein saluted Rotarians as peacemakers. "The noble task of peace-building is now upon us," he said. "Amongst people in our entire region— indeed everywhere in the world— individuals must have a voice in the determination of their own future."

1st visit to a country by protocol - 1st to its head. (FRANCE'S NEW PRESIDENT)

~~27. Tuesday's plenary session included an address by Rotary Foundation Trustee Chairman Hugh Archer. Taking a panoramic view of Foundation programs, Hugh noted: "The variety and vigor with which Rotarians are using the resources of The Rotary Foundation is astounding. It is the Rotarians themselves who identify urgent problems and use Foundation grants to solve them. It is Rotarians who select the~~

JACQUES CHIRAC

Scholars and Group Study Exchange teams, and it is Rotarians who welcome these ambassadors of peace to their countries." Hugh noted that the Foundation's Permanent Fund, in which the principal is kept *permanently* and only the earnings are spent, stands at more than \$23 million, gaining some \$5 million so far this year.

28. Following a video presentation on Rotary's long-standing relationship with the United Nations, President Huntley introduced Dr. Nick Ward, Acting Chief of the Expanded Programme on Immunization for the World Health Organization (WHO). He lauded the efforts of Rotary volunteers in helping wipe out polio in the Americas and, very soon, in the Pacific region. "So, is the job done? Will global polio eradication now definitely be achieved? Can Rotary and Rotarians now relax? No!, No!, and No!" The last and hardest stages lie ahead, he warned, and this is the time to increase vigilance rather than rest on well-earned laurels. But given Rotarians' past performances, he is confident that by the year 2000 the wild polio virus will be vanquished. Following Dr. Ward's remarks, President Huntley gave the WHO official a check for \$167,300, to improve and update equipment for at least five technicians/virologists working in polio surveillance laboratories.
29. On ~~Tuesday afternoon~~, Rotarians ~~flocked to~~ ^{ed} attend various workshops under the umbrella focus of "Rotary and its Place in the World." Pictured here is a participant from Nigeria making a point at a discussion during the Africa (Sub-Saharan) workshop. Other workshops focused on Rotary and the United Nations, membership trends, and environmental awareness.
30. On Tuesday night, thousands of convention participants and the general public lined Nice's famed seaside roadway, the Promenade des Anglais, for a spirited festivity that evoked the magic and excitement of the city's renowned Carnival. The event got off to a roaring start with the heart-stopping aerial performance of a squadron of eight high-performance jets from the French air force.
31. The pilots soared and sped above the beach in an incredible display of aeronautic acrobatics, tracing the sky with plumes of red, white, and blue smoke.
32. Following the air show came the boisterous and decidedly down-to-earth Carnival parade, featuring marching bands, acrobats, colorful floats from the Nice Mardi Gras celebrations...
33. and a "Battle of Flowers," in which blossoms and bouquets were tossed to the delighted crowd. Note: It took three tons of flowers from France, Holland, and Poland to decorate the 15 florid floats.
34. Wednesday morning's plenary session focused on Rotary business, including a report on the 1995 Council on Legislation, the introduction of outgoing members of

the R.I. Board, and the election of eight Board members whose two-year terms will start 1 July 1996, officers of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, and all 515 district governors for 1995-96. Also, Luis Vicente Giay of Argentina (shown here with his wife, Celia) was elected to serve as R.I. president for 1996-97. In brief acceptance remarks, ~~President-Elect Luis Vicente looked to the future.~~ "As a new millennium is about to begin," he said, "I find fascinating the new opportunities for service opening ahead of us.... With your help, service, and support, we are certain to attain success...."

NEXT WAS THE.

- 35. ~~Presentation of the 1995-96 R.I. Board of Directors was followed by the introduction of Rotary's leader for the coming year— Herbert G. Brown of Clearwater, Florida, U.S.A.— and his family.~~
- 36. In his remarks, incoming President Herb ^{B. Brown!} challenged Rotarians to work for a polio-free world, to act as positive role models for young people, and to "dig deep into our reservoir of inner courage to live and embrace the highest calling we know— peace-making." President-Elect Herb also asked Rotarians to make membership development a priority. "We must attract new members, retain existing members, and organize new Rotary clubs," he said. ~~He also demonstrated how all these efforts work within the scope of the three-part R.I. theme for 1995-96: "ACT WITH INTEGRITY, SERVE WITH LOVE, WORK FOR PEACE."~~
- 37. ~~As this highly successful convention approached its end, President Huntley thanked jubilant Host Committee Chairman (and District Governor-Elect) Adrien Corbière Médecin (shown here) and his French colleagues for a job well done.~~
- 38. Famed French pianist Richard Clayderman and his orchestra performed a festive concert of popular music to bring the ~~session~~ ^{CONVENTION} to a close.
- 39. Mr. Clayderman's music segued into the choruses of "Auld Lang Syne" that traditionally end Rotary conventions.
- 40. But for many this was not *au revoir* or even good-bye. After all, there was still time for one more cafe visit, one more cup of *café au lait*, one more memory to savor.

THE 1996 R.I. Convention ^{IS} **IN** Calgary, Alberta, Canada!