



IN THE FOCUS

# Rotary World in Hamburg

One of the largest multicultural conventions in the world this year was held in Hamburg. More than 25,000 Rotary members from 170 countries of the world are participating in the 110<sup>th</sup> Rotary International Convention in Hamburg from June 1 to 5, 2019.

Hamburg as the economic and cultural center that connects Germany with the world proved to be the perfect choice for organizing the convention.

Often described as a “mini-United Nations,” Rotary’s first-ever convention in Hamburg will transform the Hamburg Messe und Congress into a cultural mosaic as the organization’s global network of volunteers gathers to exchange ideas on how to improve lives and bring positive, lasting change to communities around the world. Rotary members attended a grand opening, plenary sessions and workshops to hear a series of world-class lecturers, such as dr. Peter Tschentscher, First Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and President of the Senate, Timotheus Höttges, CEO of Deutsche Telekom AG.

The international public has shown an outstanding interest in the Rotary International Convention in Hamburg. The Rotary International Convention officially started with great opening ceremony with the defile of the flags of almost 200 countries in which Rotary today operates in the world, traditionally carried by the young from Youth Exchange, and continued with the performances of talented artists and with the special welcome of the President of Rotary Barry Rassin. Watching the ceremony from Inspiration Seating Lounge, which was offered for the first time as an opportunity, was an amazing ex-



**Damir SKELIN**  
ARPIC Zone 19P  
D1913 Croatia

perience for all those who booked the lounge on time. The House of Friendship is the place where the Rotary world is gathered to share the ideas, best practices and successes of its projects on the same day. The opening ceremony of the Rotary Convention was preceded by the Rotaract Pre-Convention in the presence of a record number of more than 800 Rotaract members from 68 countries.

But we return to the opening ceremony which continued by the national anthem of Germany as host, then the Bahamas, the country from which President Rassin arrives, and performed by Julien Believe in a fascinating way, and ultimately by the performance of the official anthem of the Rotary movement.



The musical part of the program was completed by the Korean music star Sungboi Chong. This young man after the appearance of the show “Korea’s Got Talent”, went up to the music star. Show part of the program was completed by the triple world break dance champions of DCC.

In addition to the musical part, the speaking part of the ceremony was also impressive. The rotating community was addressed by the Mayor of Hamburg and the President of the Senate dr. Peter Tschentscher, and as was expected in particular, was the speech of President RI Barry Rassin.

“I cannot express my gratitude to you for being with us this year. And also for making me and Esther’s journey one of the greatest adventures of our life. I will never forget my first convention. What I knew about Rotary before that convention was my club and district. I learned about the incredible stories of service and our global impact. Over the next four days you will hear inspirational stories that emphasize Rotary diversity, leadership, community, integrity and service.”

Then President Rassin mentioned that the Beatles had their first public appearance in Hamburg and that as rock stars they started to change the world. “Rotaract members are our stars, the Rotary stars!”, said President Rassin. In the end, he invited all to discover the true spirit

of Aloha and Rotary, and with his family, friends and fellow Rotarians, he reunited for a year in Honolulu. “The convention is just one of the moments where people from around the world gather in one place to celebrate Rotary. Our engaged speakers will increase your passion for service and provide new perspectives to our common work in the world. Meet new friends and connect with the old while exploring everything that Honolulu and the convention can offer. You will be returned from our convention refreshed and inspired to continue to lead and serve the community. Do not miss your opportunity to find and share the Aloha at the Rotary Convention 2020 in Honolulu, Hawaii, United States, June 6-10, “ President Rassin concluded by open call.

Morning terms were reserved for plenary sessions, and first in the series was on the topic of “Leadership integrity and high ethical standards”. It was possible to hear very contentious thoughts of exceptional and on the world level of relevant leaders such as, for example, Timotheus Höttges, CEO of Deutsche Telekom AG. Very concise, but very profound and concrete thoughts that impel thoughts and actions, are only part of the totality of this exceptional morning at the convention.

**“Integrity is the implementation of ethics in personality.”**

**“Rotary activities are guided by a**

special combination of leadership and integrity because leadership without integrity is nothing more than personal interest.”

“Integrity means translating ethics in personnel procedures. Without integrity, there is no innovation, success or humanity.”

In these plenary sessions full of inspiration and motivation, much has been said, and many borders have been shifted. There will be memorized words by John Hewko, general secretary of Rotary International. “This is a special year in Rotary history. This is the year when our new strategic plan will be presented. It is designed with your help because Rotary needs to evolve to serve our fast-changing world. The plan is structured according to four strategic priorities: how to increase our impact, expand our reach, increase engagement of participants and increase our ability to adapt. Each of us will have to make a full contribution in order to achieve these ambitious goals.”

“Our special combination of leadership and integrity defines us through the slogan PEOPLE ON ACTION, as people ready to respond to all the challenges.”

“One of the unique Rotary features is that we are made up of leaders, ... leaders committed to creating a lasting change all over the world, in our communities and in ourselves.”

“Leadership is one of our core values and has been a lighthouse that has been conducting our activities for the past 114 years.”

“The world is ready for Rotary to take the lead, but is Rotary ready to lead the world?”

It is worth mentioning also the story off Daniel Flynn who founded @thankyou\_AUS to make an impact. They offer a series of products and donate their profits to service projects around the world.

There was no lack of education in the #PeopleofAction Social Media Center. There, you could find out how to use Facebook Live and launch your own social media channels.

Interesting is the activity and members of Rotary who were riding bicycles from France to Germany to support the World Bicycle Relief project in order to create better opportunities for education, health care and economic opportunities.

On the other hand, close to 1,000 runners enjoyed a wonderful time and joined the charity race of Endpolio in the center of Hamburg, while the Directors of the Rotary Peace Centers of the World at the organized meeting discussed the improvement of the Peace Scholarship Program.

The plenary session that aroused a special interest was that which focused on our service with the goal of eradicating the poles in the world. “Being a part of the Rotary has been one of the great joys of my life,” said Rotary Foundation Chair, Brenda Cressey. “We have three times as many global grants under our new model. We brought new rigor to our grants assessments, making sure that they meet local needs, are sustainable and create lasting improvement. Our grant assessments ensure that local needs are met, they are sustainable and create lasting improvements. We collected \$ 331 million this year to continue our help to humanity. Your gifts give people hope, they give people dignity and give people a chance to improve their communities.”

And so while lectures, panels, education and dating are still ongoing, we invite you once again to discover the true spirit of Aloha with your family, friends and colleagues Rotarians in Honolulu. Meet new friends and connect with the old while exploring everything that Honolulu and the convention can offer. Do not miss the opportunity to find and share Aloha at the Rotary Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, June 6-10, 2020.

## LEARNING

# AWARDS

Members of the Rotary community help make clubs stronger, communities better, and peace possible.

**T**hank them for their dedication and valuable contributions by recognizing them with one of these Rotary International or non-contribution-based Rotary Foundation awards.

- Recognize a club
- Recognize individuals
- Recognize non-Rotarians

## Recognize a club

### Rotary citation for Rotary clubs

The most important award for Rotary clubs.

### Rotary citation for Rotaract clubs

The most important award for Rotaract clubs.

### Rotary citation for Interact clubs

The most important award for Interact clubs.

### Significant Service Award

Recognize a club whose project has addressed a significant need in your community.

### World Interact Week Recognition

Recognizes Interact clubs that celebrate the founding of the first club during World Interact Week, which occurs each year during the week of 5 November (from Monday to Sunday).

### World Rotaract Week Recognition

Recognizes Rotaract clubs that celebrate the founding of the first club during World Rotaract Week, which occurs each year during the week of 13 March (from Monday to Sunday).

### Interact Video Awards

Recognizes outstanding videos created by Interactors.

### Rotaract Outstanding Project Awards

Recognizes Rotaract clubs that are making a sustainable impact in one of Rotary's areas of focus through their innovative community or international service projects.

## Recognize individuals

### Avenues of Service Award (district recognition)

With an award from their district, clubs can honor a Rotarian who participates in service activities in one of the

five Avenues of Service — club, vocational, community, international, and youth service.

### Avenues of Service Award (RI recognition)

Districts can nominate a member who has performed service in all five Avenues of Service for an award from Rotary International.

### Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service

Honors members who have been actively involved in service related to The Rotary Foundation.

### Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award

Honors individual Rotarians who have demonstrated exemplary service to the Foundation and have received the Citation for Meritorious Service at least four years prior.

### Rotary Foundation District Service Award

Honors Rotarians who are making a difference through the Foundation's programs.

### Service Above Self Award

Prestigious award for Rotarians who demonstrate their commitment to helping others by volunteering their time and talents.

### Service Award for a Polio-Free World

Honors Rotarians who have made outstanding contributions to our polio eradication efforts.

### PolioPlus Pioneer Award

Honors Rotarians who provided extraordinary service to polio eradication prior to 1 November 1992.

## Recognize non-Rotarians

### Rotary Alumni Association of the Year Award

Recognizes one outstanding alumni association each year for raising awareness of our alumni's impact on our organization.

### Rotary Alumni Global Service Award

Honors one outstanding Rotary alumnus each year for their humanitarian service and professional achievements.

### Rotary Award for Excellence in Service to Humanity

Recognizes non-Rotarians, including partners and spouses of Rotarians, who have demonstrated exemplary humanitarian service in accord with Rotary's ideals.

NEWS

# HOLGER KNAACK SELECTED TO BE 2020-21 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



**H**olger Knaack, a member of the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln, Germany, has been selected to serve as president of Rotary International in 2020-21.

The Nominating Committee's decision follows the resignation last month of President-nominee Sushil Gupta due to health reasons. Knaack will officially become president-nominee if no other candidates challenge him by 31 May.

To build a stronger membership, Knaack says Rotary must focus on increasing the number of female members and transitioning Rotaractors into Rotarians.

Knaack believes that the People of Action campaign offers new public awareness possibilities for Rotary. "This campaign conveys our global image while still respecting differences in regions and cultures," he says.

A Rotary member since 1992, Knaack has served Rotary as treasurer, director, moderator, member and chair of several committees, representative for the Council on Legislation, zone coordinator, training leader, and district governor.

He is an endowment/major gifts adviser and co-chair of the Host Organization Committee for the 2019 Rotary International Convention in Hamburg.

Knaack is the CEO of Knaack KG, a real estate company. He was previously a partner and general manager of Knaack Enterprises, a 125-year-old family business.

He is a founding member of the Civic Foundation of the City of Ratzeburg and served as president of the Golf-Club Gut Grambek. Knaack is also the founder and chair of the Karl Adam Foundation.

Knaack and his wife, Susanne, are Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation and members of the Bequest Society.

Ryan Hyland

## NEWS

District 2232 Ukraine &amp; Belarus

# RI PRESIDENT ELECT MARK MALONEY VISIT TO ZONE 19p

RI President Mark Maloney visited D 2232 on May 25-29

The main occasion of the visit was the celebration of the 90. Anniversary of Rotary in Ukraine. RIPE Mark and his wife Gay (Rotarian, too) spent first three days in Lviv, where they met with Ukrainian Rotaract Clubs representatives, celebrating 25. Anniversary of Rotaract in Ukraine. They got acquainted with service projects of Lviv Rotary Clubs. Mark and Gay, also, visited Ukrainian Catholic University, had a meeting with Lviv City Major Andriy Sadovyj, then Mark held a press conference in City Hall. In the Conference “90 years Rotary in Ukraine. History and Novadays”, in which participated Rotarians from Ukraine, as well as from Poland, Romania and Italy, Regional Leaders from Zone 19p and Zone 16, Rotaractors and non-Rotary guests, Mark made a speech. Smashing the future Rotary Park in Lviv, Mark and Gay planted a tree with leaders of city government.

On the way from Lviv to Kyiv Mark and Gay visited the Komarivka village, not far from Lviv, from which Marc’s ancestors moved in 1903 to Manitoba, Canada, and later to Illinois, USA. In Rivne they have meeting with local Rotary Club.

In Kyiv Mark made a speech, opening the Forum “Rotary Peacebuilding Initiative for Ukraine”. Mark and Gay held a meetings with the Rotarians of Kyiv and Rotary Clubs representatives from Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania, with Rotaractors and Interactors. Mark and Gay, also, had an official meeting with the first vice-Prime minister of Ukraine Stepan Kubiv, Rotarian from RC Lviv, and a working breakfast with Minister of Health Uliana Suprun, from origin Ukrainian, US citizen.

Summing up the results of this intense visit, Mark expressed deep satisfaction with the activity of Rotary in Ukraine, with Public Image created by the Rotarians and, especially, with growth of membership. After 11 month of current Rotary year D 2232 has achieved membership growth of more than 22 percent net, which displays it on this indicator in the first place in Europe and in the third place in the World Rotary.

After visit, RI President-Elect Mark Maloney and Gay departed Kyiv on their way to Rotary Convention Hamburg 2019.

Rotary Peacebuilding initiative for Ukraine left to right Pavlo Kashkadamov, PDG, Mark Maloney, RIPE, Dirk Lustig, Olha Yalovenko

