



RI PRESIDENT-NOMINEE'S ACCEPTANCE REMARKS TO THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Mark Daniel Maloney
27 June 2018

Good afternoon, everyone! *Bon après-midi à tous!*

This has been a very special convention for me, since Toronto was the home city of my mother during her high school years. As a teenager here, she was a radio actress on the CBC. I have her to thank for my booming radio voice!

So, have you enjoyed the convention?

Do you feel inspired to go out and make a difference?

I think you all agree with me that as much as we have been inspired by the speakers, the presentations, and everything we have seen on this stage this week, what happened off the stage inspired us even more.

Because what we really come to the convention for is the chance to live and experience, in here, the world of Rotary that is usually out there. The Rotary that lets us connect in a way that simply is not possible anywhere else. That lets you sit down next to a total stranger from the other side of the globe and call them by their first name. And in Rotary, not only can you do that, not only can you make these remarkable connections with such incredible ease — you can use those connections to change the world.

Only in Rotary.

And now, our time together in Toronto is almost at an end. On this last day of our convention, we are looking ahead — not only toward Hamburg (and even Honolulu), but toward what will be next for our organization. We are at a point of transition in Rotary. We are nearing our goal of a polio-free world — and with it, the end of our No. 1 priority, the task that has driven us for over 30 years. We have major decisions to make, with a new strategic plan, a new Council on Legislation, and an opportunity to update our areas of focus all lying ahead. Those decisions will have an impact that will roll on for decades — not only for Rotary, but for the communities we serve.

But more than anything else, the success of our service in the future depends upon how successful we are today — in adapting our clubs, and our organization, to today's realities.

If we want Rotary to stay vital, and relevant, we need people of all ages, not only to

serve, but also to lead. We must have clubs, and membership processes, and membership models that embrace today's families, today's societies, and today's expectations.

How Rotary will change, what it will look like 10, 20, 30 years from now — will be determined by us now. In the words of Paul Harris, “The pioneering days of Rotary have only just begun.”

As Rotarians, we know that if we work together, we can do almost anything we set our minds to. That is true within our organization, and beyond it. We could never have come so close to eradicating polio, if we had insisted on going it alone. We needed the whole world with us. Partnership made it possible.

And partnership is what will allow us to tackle some of our toughest challenges that lie ahead. We need to apply the lessons of polio to our planning, by focusing on cooperation, on our special relationship with the United Nations, and on truly sustainable service that will make the world a better place — not just for us, but for everyone, and for all generations. And our first partnership will be with Rotaractors, as a select group joins the governors-elect at the 2019 International Assembly.

I am humbled and honored to accept the nomination to serve as president of this great organization in the 2019-20 Rotary year.

With the continued support of my wife, Gay, and my family, my Rotary club, my community, and every one of you — Rotarians, Rotaractors, and the family of Rotary — I look forward to leading our great organization into the next decade and the future that we will all build, together. Thank you.