



CONVENTION COUNTDOWN

Gateway to the world

Hamburg's role as Germany's premier seaport has shaped the character of the city through the centuries. From its earliest days as Hammaburg – an eighth-century fortress in a river bend, built to secure trade in the region – Hamburg has maintained its independence as a city-state still known as the “Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.” Today, its citizens proudly call themselves “Hanseaten.”

In its medieval glory days, the city established itself as “gateway to the world” – which is its official slogan. In the 19th and 20th centuries, it was the port of departure for 5 million emigrants, whose stories are documented in the BallinStadt Emigration Museum. The maritime history of the city comes alive in the International Maritime Museum Hamburg.

Today, Hamburg is one of the busiest ports in Europe, moving 136 million tons of seaborne cargo in 2017. The city is also a popular destination for cruise ships, and the port is something of a tourist attraction, where you can get a drink or a meal on a converted cargo ship and even stop in at a church on a riverboat. Or see the harbor on one of the numerous boat tours that are available.

Hamburg defines itself in the context of globalization: a modern, multicultural hub for business, culture, and technology that is playing a central role in an interconnected world. – STEFAN MEUSER



Register for the 2019
Rotary Convention in Hamburg at
riconvention.org.



A message from Foundation Trustee Chair **Ron D. Burton**

Since its inception in 1905, Rotary has been a champion for peace. The 1914 Rotary Convention adopted a resolution that our organization “lend its influence to the maintenance of peace among nations of the world.” Then, the 1921 convention incorporated into Rotary’s Constitution the goal to aid in the advancement of international peace and goodwill through fellowship in the Rotary ideal of service. In 1945, Rotary played a key role in forming the United Nations when almost 50 Rotarians served as delegates, advisers, or consultants at the UN charter conference in San Francisco.

Today, one of our six areas of focus is promoting peace. Every Rotary service project, whether funded with a district grant or a global grant, has an impact on peace. It could be a peace project, a water and sanitation project, a basic education and literacy project, an economic and community development project, or a project in one of our human health-related areas – maternal and child health or disease prevention and treatment. It really doesn’t matter. The ultimate outcome makes a positive contribution to our world by improving the quality of life for those affected, and that improvement is an element of peace.

Additionally, each year we select up to 100 professionals from around the world to be Rotary Peace Fellows who receive fellowships to study at one of our six peace centers, earning either a master’s degree or a professional development certificate in areas such as human rights, international politics, public health, and development. To date, 1,100-plus people have participated in the program, and we are beginning to see positive results.

As we look to the future, The Rotary Foundation Trustees are discussing how we can improve this program as well as all of our peace efforts so that we can achieve the maximum possible positive impact. If you would like to help, you can contribute to the Rotary Peace Centers Major Gifts Initiative and help support the next generation of peacebuilders.

Ron D. Burton
FOUNDATION TRUSTEE CHAIR