



CONNECTIONS

August 2018

Kimberly Carroll, Editor (kvcarroll@yahoo.com)

President's Corner



Greetings from ITHF President Sheila Hart

Another Rotary year has begun and ITHF is celebrating 28 years of fellowship, fun and faithful service to Rotary. With the recent addition of 100 new members at the RI Convention held in Toronto, we celebrate having over 1000 members, not counting their faithful Rotary partners. I give thanks to the stellar group of volunteers who manned the "Buth" in Toronto; they did a phenomenal job of recruiting new members, assisting members renewing their

membership and answering questions. In addition, they distributed our beautiful new posters and flyers to all of the VPs present and many individual members who are willing to speak within their Rotary Districts to make Rotarians aware of the benefits of belonging to this fellowship. Should any members like to have some brochures and a beautiful poster suitable for table top displays at Rotary functions, please contact Rick Harned or me.

I am delighted that the following team members are continuing to serve ITHF for the forthcoming year – **Rick Hared**, Administrator, **Roger Siddle**, Web-Master, **Roland Blahnik**, Treasurer, **Melvina Lube**, Secretary, **Kimberly Carroll**, Connections Editor, **Jennifer Cowan**, Director of Promotions and **Linda Bauer**, Facebook Editor. Fresh energy has been brought to the team by Director of Membership, **Bala Murthy**. We will be working closely with **PE Aswini Kar** as he prepares to assume the presidency in Hamburg. The Fellowship is blessed with a full slate of Vice Presidents; please visit the Members Section the website and go to the Officers and Vice Presidents listings to find out who is your VP. One of the goals for 2018 is to make every District Governor aware of the value of Rotary Fellowships, especially ITHF and to seek approval to have ITHF advertised on each District's website. Roger Siddle is updating the pdf directory every quarter. In this document, the membership is listed by geographical area and the contact information for the VP is on the face page of each area. We encourage all members to contact other ITHFers within their geographical area and to work closely with their VP.

The Tour Committee did a phenomenal job organizing the pre-convention tour to Eastern Canada and the post-convention tour of the Canadian Rockies by Rail which ended in Calgary in time for Calgary Stampede events. Plans are well underway for the 2019 tours and members need to register soon to reserve a spot on either tour. The Tour Committee is reviewing the results from the recent membership-wide survey. In addition, the Tour Committee is seeking

some new members with time and energy to commit to expanding the number of tours available. I look forward to working with you in the forthcoming year.



Mary Ellen Harned of USA, Tatiana Vinda of Russia and Kazi Azmery of Bangladesh at the Buth! Great Ambassadors for ITHF!!

We were conveniently located across from the Hamburg booth & we took advantage of that to sign up LOTS of new members!



Sedef Bircan on duty at our booth

Rotary Fellowships

Did you know there are over 70 specialty Fellowships: beer, wine, whisk(e)y, quilting, motorcycles, motor homes, ethics, and surfing...to our personal favorite (and quite possibly largest) fellowship: travel & hosting; there are over 70,000 Rotarians involved in these Fellowships, and they are active in over 150 countries! You can learn more about all of the fellowships here: [RI Fellowships](#).

From RI: congratulations to the 29 Fellowships who exhibited in the House of Friendship during the RI Convention in Toronto. Thank you to DGE Tris Tristam for planning and moderating the breakout session *Fellowships: The Hidden Gem of Rotary*. And thank you to Global Networking Groups Committee Fellowships Representative Mark Burchill who hosted the annual All Fellowships meeting, which saw its best attendance with 63 attendees representing 26 Fellowships!

We're in GREAT company!

2019 Hamburg Post-Convention Tour

Now that you're home, the jet lag is resolved, and you've finished all your Toronto Convention laundry and photo sorting, it's time to start planning for next year's Convention in Hamburg! ITHF has planned a fabulous post-convention tour commencing in Hamburg on June 6 and

terminating in Munich on June 16, 2019...it promises to be an exciting and interesting 11 days, led by John Steven. Brief details are on ithf.org and bookings can be made with janice@iandicksontravel.com; copy John Steven please.

For full details of the tour contact John Steven at johnsteven@bigpond.com or Janice Dickson. *Please book early.*

PP John Steven



Information about the RI Convention in Hamburg can be found at [RI 2019 Convention](#)

A Visit with Rotaplast Friends

Frank Walchak and Terry Hodskins



Frank and I have been Blessed to make friends all over the world through Rotary and our work through Rotaplast International (an organization which provides surgery around the world to cleft lip, cleft palate patients and burn victims). One of those who is very dear to my heart is Terry Hodskins.

Frank and I were visiting Maine for our 50th wedding anniversary. During that time we were fortunate to be able to enjoy an evening and dinner with Terry. We were introduced to Terry through Rotaplast. She is a Rotary member who founded Wrap a Smile, a quilting group which supplies quilts to each of the children when they have their cleft lips and cleft palates repaired by our teams. During our many international missions, we appreciated these most beautiful quilts, but I had not had the opportunity to meet Terry in person until a mutual friend and Rotarian, Sheila Hart introduced us. Since then, Terry has become a treasured friend. Our dinner evening in Portland, Maine was a wonderful reunion. I am so thankful that our Rotary and Rotaplast lives have brought these treasured friends into our lives.

(Note from Sheila – Dr. Frank Walchak and Terry Hodskins have both received the Service Above Self Award from Rotary International)

G'day!
Ken Thompson
Rotary Club of Port Macquarie West Australia



In March we had the great pleasure of welcoming to Port Macquarie (NSW Australia) our very first overseas ITHF visitors, after more than 10 years membership. We have enjoyed visiting fellow members in a number of places in Canada, USA, Britain and France over the years, also Medicare's great group tour in Taiwan but in Port Macquarie we are a bit off the beaten track. We mentioned this in *Connections* last year and Rick & MaryEllen Harned were so good as to add a quick visit, to us as the final stop of their long journey in

Australia. I had said that Port Macquarie ("Port" to those in on the secret) is famous, far & wide, as a great holiday resort, for its great beaches and its fabulous climate. We were able to turn them all on for MaryEllen & Rick, who responded by introducing us to their own claims about Louisville, Kentucky. We think it was a drawn game.

We dined and wined and talked at length on dreams of greatness for ITHF and how to bring its pleasures to many more Rotarians. We have it in mind to carry on that conversation by all means.



The attached photos show 1. Rick & MaryEllen with Dahlis & me at Port Macquarie airport, ready to take off for home. 2. Is Rick attacking and Aussie burger at "The Udder Cow" in our hills at Comboyne. 3. Is at Flynn's Beach, Port, our favourite amongst our many surf beaches.

G'day Again!
Ken Thompson
Rotary Club of Port Macquarie West Australia

Following our recent Group Friendship Exchange to District 1180, in Wales and England, Dahlis & I drove on up to The Hebrides and the Highlands of Scotland, then back to Heathrow via Edinburgh, York and Colchester, all ancient, interesting, beautiful places.

After making our bookings in York, we contacted Milton Frary, who lives at Knaresborough, just a few miles away. He and Elaine were quick to invite us to stay but, having already confirmed our bookings in York, we settled on a deal to lunch together at one of those inimitable, warm & friendly English pubs that they suggested. We did that and Rick & Elaine then showed us around Knaresborough, which a real treasure of a historic, interesting, beautiful town, followed by a few hours R&R at their interesting, beautifully updated period home. What a pleasure it was to meet these wonderful fellow Rotarians, who greeted us so warmly in such a special place. Just a few hours was a major highlight of an overall grand tour.



The above photos show (1) Dahlis with Milton & Elaine in the ancient castle gardens, (2) With the famous Mother Shipton, The Witch of Knaresborough (3) The striking view of Knaresborough town running down to the River Nidd.

Memories

Rtn Saleem Raza

RC Quetta Cosmopolitan, Dist 3271



Rotary is all about fellowship leading to Service above self. With this in mind ,five of our members including me decided to attend Toronto Convention, though a decision to this effect was taken while were there in Atlanta Convention. Since we require Visa to go to Canada, efforts were started for the same. It is quite a hassle to get a Visa. You either apply on line or in person but in either case we have to go Karachi, city at a distance of one hour flight from where we live. Going through the whole process, four of us were granted Visa and we eventually managed to be in Toronto on different dates but

before the inauguration of event.

We were surprised by the number of Rotarians attending the convention from all over the world...more than 25000....unbelievable when we told our fellow Rotarians back home through social Media. The substance of all speeches in General Sessions kept us glued to seats. Names were impressive and so were their oral contribution in highlighting the issues and vis a vis their link with contribution by the Rotary International.

House of Friendship was true to the significance it represents in its name. Clubs from most countries exhibiting their projects and products were amazing and were a source to learn and share experiences. The place provided opportunities to interact and enhance fellowship with other Rotarians and we took benefit of the same.

The occasion also provided us the chance to explore Toronto and its surroundings. We parted our ways after last session, going to Ottawa or Montreal and in my case New York as well. Overall it was wonderful experience and we made a pledge to be again together in Hamburg next year.

At the Buth!

Linda and Jim Bauer
Kennewick WA USA



It's always great fun to staff the ITHF booth at International Conventions! Folks love to hear that new Rotary friends and adventures await, and it's easy to recruit new members.

But it's as much fun to reconnect with those you've met through ITHF travels, and one of the joys for us was to see Peter and Helen Downes, our hosts from St Leonards, Australia. Peter and Helen introduced us to geocaching, and it has become a great hobby that enriches our travels. We hope they will pop in on us in SE Washington, USA.

Message from Your Administrator



Your fellowship had a great Convention in Toronto! More than 100 new members have been enrolled, and many renewals, too! We have members from five new countries - the British Virgin Islands, Honduras, Indonesia, Mozambique, and Panama! Look them up - the next edition of the PDF Directory will be available soon!

Both the Friendship Dinner and the General Meeting were attended by record numbers of ITHF'ers!

We're expecting some great reports from the tours of Eastern and Western Canada! Did you see all the White Hats on our Facebook page?

Message from Our Webmaster

Some members occasionally have problems connecting to our website. To resolve this issue we are planning to simplify how your web browser locates the ITHF web server. Hopefully there will be minimum disruption apart from the time taken to make the changes. Please be patient if we are under estimating the disturbance!



The address of www.ithf.org will remain the same and members do not need to change how they access the site.