



ROTARY

Rotary International | One Rotary Center | 1560 Sherman Avenue | Evanston, IL 60201 USA

Sample News Release Template

CONTACT:

Rotary brings the world to New Orleans

(Local Area Rotarian) joined thousands at Annual Convention

New Orleans, LA, USA (Date) – [Rotary club members from hometown](#) along with more than 19,000 Rotary club members from over 160 countries helped Rotary International bring the world to a city already famous for its internationality and color for the humanitarian service organization’s annual convention. Often described as a “mini-United Nations” because of its global scope and cultural diversity, the always colorful Rotary convention injected an estimated \$22 million into the local economy during its weeklong run at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

["Add your own quote here about how your town or city was represented among Rotary’s 160 countries and geographical areas."](#)

This year’s chief keynote speaker was Microsoft founder Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and a staunch supporter of Rotary’s work to eradicate the crippling disease polio. During his talk, Gates discussed the importance of polio eradication -- now more than 99% accomplished -- and congratulated Rotary on raising \$200 million to match a \$355 million challenge grant from the Gates Foundation, a funding package crucial to the final push to end polio.

Each year, Rotary strives to make the convention relevant to its host city. The May 23 plenary session featured the panel presentation, Katrina Revisited. Panellists included Kathleen Koch, former CNN reporter and author of “Rising from Katrina: How My Mississippi Hometown Lost it All and Found What Mattered;” Julia Reed, Newsweek contributing editor and author of “The House on First Street: My New Orleans Story;” and Kathie Short, of Rotary Club of Pass Christian, Miss. [\(add any additional speakers you wish to highlight\)](#)

The annual convention gives members of the 106-year-old volunteer service group the opportunity to share success stories, exchange ideas and renew acquaintances. [\[Share a story relevant to your specific region. Include photos of your visit highlighting New Orleans or the convention in the background\].](#)

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. There are 1.2 million Rotary members in 34,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Rotary clubs have been serving communities worldwide for more than a century. For more information, visit: www.rotary.org or [local website](#).

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