

Convention

London is one of several cities around the world that have been offered the opportunity to bid to host the Rotary International Convention in 2013. Those who have been to a Convention before will appreciate that this is a major world gathering, with from 25000 to 40000 attendees for the four days of the main events, together with two or three days of pre-Convention presentations and meetings for special interests such as Foundation, Rotaract, Interact, Youth Exchange, RYLA and other topics.

The primary purpose of the annual Convention is to stimulate, inspire and inform all Rotarians at an international level. It is also the annual meeting of the international association and provides for the conduct of the business of the association.

Rotarians from the host District covering the chosen city will need to form a Host Organising Committee that will organise and be responsible for all aspects of the Convention; together with an International Convention Committee from RI. These will include everything from the 20000 seater venue and adjacent halls for the House of Friendship and fringe activities, details of the entertainment programme through to negotiating group hotel bookings and transport facilities. Home hospitality and tourist visits beyond London will also be arranged. Some parts of the overall package will be offered to companies to arrange.

In the first instance, if London is to pursue this opportunity then a small committee need to negotiate the basic package of venue and show that facilities such as transport can cope with the numbers expected. On the back of the Olympics/ Paralympics in 2012, hotels and transport should be more than suitable, but we'll need to show that to be the case. Also RI will be looking for a positive partnership with the Local Authorities and a good deal on costs. The Tourist Visitors Bureau and Greater London Authority will be major contacts for the initial bid and beyond. This initial bid has to be put together in a Proposal Document and submitted to RI by mid-April 2006.

Given the significant involvement that Rotarians in District 1130 and in neighbouring Districts will be required to provide, we would like District Council's support on the principle of a bid being submitted for the honour to host the Rotary world in our great city.

Robert Morris
District Governor.

(This flyer will be distributed at the District Council Meeting on Wednesday 11th January 2006.)