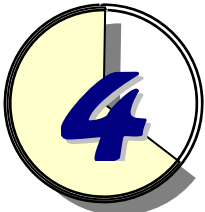


LA2008
Host District Countdown Newsletter
Districts 5240, 5260, 5280, 5300, 5320, 5330, 5340



February 2008

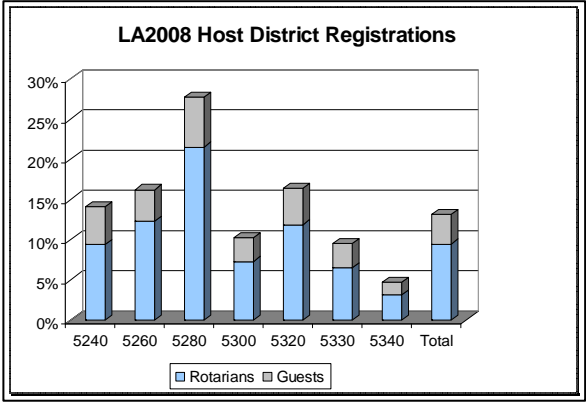
In barely 4 months over 25,000 Rotarians from around the world will arrive in Southern California for the “Best convention ever”. Planning and preparation for LA2008 is almost complete. We have some of the best entertainment scheduled with Natalie Cole and Steve Tyrell for the California Experience Saturday evening, and then Concert Under the Stars Tuesday evening at Hollywood Bowl. But the best attraction is the convention itself. For our Host District Clubs, this is your best opportunity ever to participate in a Rotary International Convention. For newer Rotarians especially, attending the convention is a must. You will learn more about Rotary in a few days than you can imagine. There are over 32,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the world, and many of them will be attending LA2008.

Registrations are growing, but we still have a ways to go to meet our 50% registration target. Even if you can’t attend the entire convention, consider organizing a group from your Club or District to attend the opening ceremonies. The number of Rotarians from around the world and the parade of flags are truly amazing. Register by March 31 to enjoy discounted registration fees! You should also think about forming a group of fellow Rotarians and friends to attend the California Experience or Hollywood Bowl. Your guests don’t need to be registered for the convention to attend these events. And to make it easy, our transportation committee has information on public rapid transportation to the Convention Center.

What are we asking of you? Just follow the “HOC 4 Way Test”:

- 1) Register NOW for LA2008
- 2) Purchase Host Event Tickets
- 3) Be a Host for Home Hospitality
- 4) Become a Volunteer!

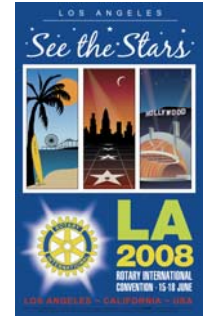
Over the past month District 5240 gained the most registrations and 16 Clubs already have over 50% registered. To keep our momentum going, HOC Chair Gerry Turner has announced the *LA2008 Challenge*. Every club that registers a total number of members and guests that exceeds 100% of their membership will receive special recognition of a LA2008 trophy and have their Club featured in the Rotarian magazine.



For more information, contact your Club Promotion Chair or one of your District Chairs.

See the Stars

Registration is easy as a, b, c....



Step 1 – Register for the convention:

- A. Register online at www.rotary2008.com. Click on RI Registration and Hotel Reservations. This will take you to the Member Access area of the RI web site where you will need your username and password. If you don't already have a RI Username and Password, you can register for a new RI Username or download a LA2008 registration form from the same site, then FAX or mail it in. (On-line is preferred but manual FAX may be easier.)
- B. Ask your Club Promotion Chair for a registration form or someone to assist you on-line. You will need your Rotary Member ID and District number to register. Your Member ID is the first eight digits printed above your name on the mailing label of your Rotarian magazine. The first zero has no value. You can also request your RI Member number from your Club Secretary.
- C. Be sure to register now to save and get the District Rebate. You can also purchase tickets for pre-convention meetings and ticketed RI Events

Step 2 – Also purchase LA2008 Host Event Tickets

- Purchase online at www.rotary2008.com and click on Host Events and Ticket Orders
- You can also download a Host Events Ticket Order Form, then FAX or mail it in (on-line is preferred)
- Ask your Club Promotion Chair for a Host Events Order Form
- Be sure to order early so you get a good seat and won't miss out on the great entertainment. Highlights you won't want to miss include **“California Experience”** catered by Wolfgang Puck, a classic car show and entertainment on the Nokia Plaza followed by Steve Tyrell and Natalie Cole, and **“Concert Under the Stars”** at Hollywood Bowl.

Step 3 – Book your Hotel Reservation

- Reserve online at www.rotary2008.com. Click on RI Registration and Hotel Reservations, scroll down to Housing Reservations and follow the links.
- Or, download a Housing Registration Form, then FAX or mail it in.

Key Contacts			
District	District Promo Chair	Host Hospitality Chair	Rotary Wide World of Books
5240	Diane Galvin	Les Grossman	Betty Miller
5260	Liz Seipel	Les Grossman	Alice Muntean
5280	Carol Wylie and Al Rosenthal	Jerrie Heslov	Angi Ma Wong
5300	Gene Hernandez	Christine Montan	Chuck Freitas
5320	Roger McGonegal	Jim Parsons	Teri Snyder
5330	David Thompson	Christine Montan	Barbara Howison
5340	Judy Gallegos	Jim Parsons	Marge Cole

Volunteer to Serve -- Be a Part of It!

HELP WANTED. The Los Angeles 2008 Rotary Convention is in need of over one thousand volunteer greeters to welcome visitors to that very wonderful event. Greeters are needed at a number of venues from Thursday June 12th through Wednesday June 18th. You and your spouse or partner have a wonderful opportunity to be a part of this “welcoming”. Opportunities to volunteer include locations at major airport terminals, Union Train Station, the Convention site itself, and at the various events planned for the Convention.



Volunteer greeters are only asked to be available for one four hour shift. After all we want you to enjoy the Convention experience yourself. Volunteering as a greeter is an easy process. Go online at www.rotary2008.com. Once on this site click on LA 2008 Host Organization Committee. Once there you will see Volunteers at the top of the screen. A click on that will get you information plus an application to fill out. Once you have filled out your application ask your spouse or partner if they would like to enjoy this volunteer experience also. If it is yes, fill out an application in their name. Also don't forget to let us know about your special language skills.

After you have done all of this, be patient. You will receive your location, time and date and instructions well in advance of the convention. Any questions can be addressed by emailing Arnie Dowdy, Greeters Chair at rkneedg0304@charter.net



Transportation made easy

Our transportation committee led by Stewart Anderson and Lee Harlan can show you how easy it is to get to and from the Convention center with step by step directions for all of our Host Districts. They even created the “famous Rotary Public transportation 3 Way Test”:

1. Is it cheaper?
2. Is it faster?
3. Will it be more fun and more enjoyable for all concerned?

More information will follow next month or contact your District Promotion Chair.

June 14: California Experience with Natalie Cole

The multiple Grammy® Award winner and daughter of the legendary Nat ‘King’ Cole will perform on Saturday evening at the new L.A. Live and Nokia Theater as part of the “California Experience.” The opening act for Natalie Cole will be Grammy® winner as well as two-time Emmy®, Academy® and Golden Globe® nominee Steve Tyrell, a world-class entertainer for four decades. Organize a group of fellow Rotarians and friends to enjoy a fantastic evening at the new LA Live and Nokia Theater. The evening opens with a classic car show, wine and a variety of international “street entertainers” on the Nokia Plaza followed by Steve Tyrell and Natalie Cole.



Photo: Natalie Cole
Credit: © Bounce, Inc.



June 15: Opening Ceremonies

Thrill to the pomp and pageantry of the opening flag ceremony. Hear the All American Boys Choir and the Canadian Brass. See how many areas of the world share Rotary's ideal of service. You will hear from RI President Wilf Wilkinson and celebrate Rotary with speakers and entertainers at all the plenaries. Enjoy fellowship at RI luncheons and connect with Rotarians from around the world in the House of Friendship with over 300 booths displaying Rotary projects and vendor products, plus live entertainment and a variety of international and ethnic food.

June 16: Far West Live!

RID Paul Netzel brings back the Far West event. The annual get together of Rotarians from the Western United States returns with a morning breakfast, news and talk show. Every District from Zones 23 and 24 will be covered with live interviews, news, weather, traffic, and entertainment. Tickets are available for \$30 from your District Governor Elect. For additional information contact Far West Chair Ingo Werk at ingo.werk@gmail.com



June 16: International Family Reunion / Host Hospitality Night

Participate in the largest *International Family Reunion* Rotary has ever held. Over 8,000 convention-goers are expected to register for Host Hospitality Night. This opportunity to enjoy a one-of-a-kind experience planned and executed by local Rotarians in their home communities is the No. 1 reason many Rotarians give for attending the convention.

If you are a member of a club in the Los Angeles area, you and/or your club can sign up to host in your home or a local venue. This can be as simple as hosting another couple in your home or 100 guest Rotarians in the venue of your choosing. If your club is not close enough to host your own event, you can join with one of the local clubs and help co-host an event. For more information, contact your Club or District Promotion Chair.



June 17: Concert Under The Stars at Hollywood Bowl

Another amazing opportunity for fun and entertainment is Rotary night at the Hollywood Bowl. Bring your picnic dinner and wine, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra will entertain us with music from your favorite Hollywood films. The grand evening will conclude with a spectacular fireworks show. Great seats are still available so why not organize a group of fellow Rotarians and friends and make an evening of it!

2008 Rotary International Convention Schedule and Highlights

Friday, 13 June

- Registration, ticket sales and credentialing

Saturday, 14 June

- Registration, ticket sales and credentialing
- Orientation for first-time convention attendees
- Grand opening of House of Friendship (RI Projects, vendor booths, ethnic food and two entertainment stages, one featuring Rotary talent!)
- The California Experience – LA Live and Nokia Theatre (host-ticketed event)

Sunday, 15 June

- Registration, ticket sales and credentialing
- House of Friendship (Projects, vendor booths, entertainment and food)
- Opening Plenary Session with Wilf Wilkinson (two seatings)

Monday, 16 June

- Far West Live!
- House of Friendship (Projects, vendor booths, entertainment and food)
- Second Plenary Session (morning)
- Interactive discussion groups and workshops (afternoon)
- International Family Reunion / Host Hospitality (**host-ticketed event**)

Tuesday, 17 June

- House of Friendship (Projects, vendor booths, entertainment and food)
- Third Plenary Session with Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization
- Interactive discussion groups and workshops (afternoon)
- Concert Under the Stars at Hollywood Bowl (**host-ticketed event**)

Wednesday, 18 June

- House of Friendship (Projects, vendor booths, entertainment and food)
- Fourth Plenary Session with Stephen Lewis, Co-Director AIDS-Free World
- Interactive discussion groups and workshops
- Closing Plenary Session with RI President-Elect D.K. Lee, the Pasadena Pops and Davis Gaines from Phantom of the Opera!

