



RI Convention 2017 in Atlanta-

My First —Francy Cross

If you've never been to a Rotary International Convention then I must say one thing to you, "Go!"

There is a side of Rotary that you can only see, feel and experience at an international convention.

I am so happy that I was able to have that amazing experience. I now have a fuller understanding of Rotary and its world wide impact. Yes, at times, I thought I'd explode with pride because I am a part of this awesome group. Let me tell you about my experience, in hopes that one day soon, you will share in my excitement.

On the first day, I got lost in a sea of Rotarians on their way to the Opening Session. But it was okay, they were a friendly bunch. So many different people from all over the world working and believing in the same cause. Just amazing! I could not speak to many of them, but we understood each other. Together we will work to eradicate Polio, stop human trafficking, provide clean water, educate our children and make our world a better place.

I met Rotarians from far away places like Perth, Australia. Jim and I struck up a conversation on the bus back to the hotel. I glanced over at his name tag and realized that we happened to share same last name!



Jim Cross meets Francy Cross



Swoop from the Wizards



Danielle Lallement from the San Francisco Evening Club



I met new friends, one who discovered my hidden talent.

Swoop from the Wizards, a division of the Globetrotters, taught me how to spin a basketball on a pen.

I was among strangers but I felt at home.

I also ran into old friends, from districts close by and from Youth Exchange. I caught up with Danielle Lallement from the San Francisco Evening Club, where my daughter is a member and who I've met at their club's charter night. She gave a wonderful presentation on how to attract new members. Good to see younger people not only interested in Rotary but participating in leadership roles.

When the Convention was over, I was a bit sad. I had more Rotary to learn, projects to see and people to meet. Good thing this is an annual event!

I am looking forward to the next RI Convention, who's on board?

