



# ललित धारा

RI District 3292

Club No. 23126

Chartered: 29 August 1985

Past President & Editor: Bijaya Mallapaty Past President & Assistant Editor: Chandralekha Kayastha Secretary: Mahendra S. Rawal

**Issue No. 1359**

**Date: 26 Jestha 2077 / 8 June 2020**

<p><b><u>Today's Programme:</u></b> Talk programme by Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal on gender-based violence</p>	<p><b><u>Congratulatory Events</u></b> <b><u>Birthdays:</u></b> Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary – 11 June <b><u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u></b> Nil</p>
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**Minutes of Meeting No. 1708**

**Date: 19 Jestha 2077 / 1 June 2020**

1. President Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa called the virtual RCP Meeting No. 1708 through 'Google Meet' to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace and happiness.
2. The last meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted.
3. Pledges of 'Happy News/Sunshine' contribution and to the Operational Fund marked as 'OF':
  - Rtn. Kamala Maharjan – for 'Happy Birthday' (NRs. 500).
  - Rtn. Bishwa B. Sharma – for 'Happy Birthday' in absentia.
  - Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa (NRs. 500) and Rtn. Kiran Thapa (NRs. 500 to OF) – for the briefing by PDG Rtn. Tirtha M. Sakya and talk programme by Rtn. Lila B. Baniya today.
  - Rtns. Bijaya and Gabriele Mallapaty – for contributing NRs. 50,000 through former UNICEF staff (FUSIN) to provide drinking water to desperate migrant workers in the Terai border areas (NRs. 500 & NRs. 500 to OF).
  - Rtn. Lila B. Baniya – for his talk prog. today and getting responsibility for the restaurant sector (NRs. 500).
  - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey – for being able to attend the virtual weekly meetings regularly (NRs. 500).
  - Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka – for Rtn. Lila B. Baniya's talk programme and participation of his son in designing sanitisation tunnel for the airport during the Covid-19 pandemic (NRs. 500 to OF).
  - Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha – for good participation in today's virtual meeting (NRs. 500 to OF).
4. Other Contributions: Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary informed of his payment of pledged contribution equivalent to US \$1,000 to TRF (\$900 to the Annual Fund and \$100 to PolioPlus).
5. Rotary News/Information:
  - President Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa informed about the District's virtual seminar of 'The Rotary Foundation Seminar and Recognition Programme' being held on 2 June 2020 at 10:30 a.m. as announced by email.
  - Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty briefed on the NOH Board meeting attended by Rtn. Chandralekha Kayastha and himself on 30 May. The NOH Board is chaired by the Mayor of Gokarneshwar Municipality. The last NOH Board approved the management plan during Covid-19 pandemic shared with RCP members by e-mail earlier, which included staff salary withholdings. Board members are also not given the attendance allowance during this period. He also informed that he has been given the responsibilities as Coordinator of the Recruitment Committee and a Member of Procurement Committee of the NOH Board.
  - Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary informed that our District 3292 has been the second largest recipient of GGs this year reaching US \$4.2 million with one of the largest GG of RC Chitwan for US \$600,000.
  - Rtn. Preeti Khemka requested all to try to pay the pledged/outstanding amounts as soon as possible for timely closure of our account of this Rotary Year ending 30 June 2020.
  - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang reported that the vaccination of street dogs of Ward Nos. 18 and 25 of Lalitpur has just been completed with the vaccination of 2,111 dogs by our implementing partner Sneha's Care.
  - President Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa participated in the NRCL's briefing on 'Waste Free Management of Lalitpur' to the Mayor. The Lalitpur metropolis is giving priority to this programme and its collaboration with Rotary.
6. Briefing on RNLN/TEACH programme: Chair of RNLN/TEACH PDG Rtn. Tirtha M. Sakya briefed the RCP on the status and plans of this programme, which he has already done to 34 other clubs. A strategic plan for 2020-2021 is being finalized. A detailed manual with implementation guide (In English & Nepali) will also be shared with all clubs soon. He highlighted three priorities of this programme, i.e. TEACH, WASH in School and Back to School programme. He has been requesting all clubs to adopt at least two to three public schools and open RCCs in those schools. Working together with the local governments and Rotary's partners-in-service, clubs are requested to support the preparation of school improvement plans and work on each aspect of TEACH (Teacher Support, E-Learning, Adult Literacy, Child Development and Happy School), which could cover all the six areas of focus of Rotary. PDG informed that the District is raising the annual contribution from each Rotarian to the District's

RNLM/TEACH from NRs. 200 to NRs. 500. As 8 September is 'World Literacy Day, district's expanded awards related to RNLM/TEACH will be programmed for that day.

7. Salutation: By PP Rtn. Jeevan K. Shrestha – RC Tortola, British Virgin Islands; Chartered: 1968 & Members: 88. District: 7020, Clubs: 80 & Members: 2640.
8. A contribution of NRs. 4,500 was pledged (NRs. 2,500 for the sunshine fund and NRs. 2,000 for the 'OF' of the RCP). Attendance: 28 members and 1 Rotaract.

#### **Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty**

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| <b>Q.</b> New name of Rotarian Action Groups RAGs.  | <b>A.</b> Rotary Action Groups    |
| <b>Q.</b> Are Rotaractors eligible to receive the Service Above Self Award, and the Avenues of Service Award? | <b>A.</b> Yes                     |
| <b>Q.</b> Rotary's monthly theme of June  | <b>A.</b> Rotary Fellowship month |

#### **11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of Rotary Year 2019-2020 held on 30 May 2020**

Secretary Rtn. Mahendra S. Rawal presented the minutes/decisions of the 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, which were endorsed/approved by the 'House'. The virtual Board meeting was conducted via 'Google Meet' application on 30 May during the 'lockdown' against the COVID-19 pandemic. Fifteen Board members participated in the meeting.

The meeting was hosted by Rtn. Bishwa B. Sharma. There was no post-board fellowship, and Rtn. Bishwa B. Sharma pledged a contribution of NRs.25,000 to the RCP members' fellowship fund. On behalf of all Board members, President Lalita C. Thapa gave a special 'Vote of Thanks' to Rtn. Bishwa B. Sharma for his contribution.

The minutes/decisions of the 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting are as follows:

1. The minutes of the 10th Board Meeting were reviewed.
2. Board noted a status update on the RCP's services projects – club managed programmes and global grants.
3. The recent decision of the Trustees of the Rotary Foundation on global grant funding for 2020-2021 effective 1 July 2020 was discussed. Considering the current capacity of the World Fund resources, TRF only will continue to match (100%) District Designated Fund (DDF) contributions. The match of 50% on other cash contributions to global grants will be eliminated effective 1 July 2020. Board members noted that this has serious consequences in getting global grants for developing countries and could affect the standard of the global grant application mechanism.
4. Concept paper for a global grant on testing kits presented by Rtn. Deepak Rajbhandary of RC Kantipur: The RCP Board felt that this needs to be further considered and developed examining the priority needs of the Covid-19 pandemic, the government's policies and commitments, and the new RI policy on global grants mentioned above. Therefore, the RCP is not ready to commit sponsoring it.
5. On behalf of the Treasurer Rtn. Bharat N. Joshi, Joint Treasurer Rtn. Preeti Khemka updated on the financial status of the RCP. May 2020 financial statement was shared electronically in advance. Efforts to collect the pledges and outstanding contributions were appreciated, which are necessary for the closure of accounts at the end of June 2020.
6. Budget for 2020-2021: Preliminary discussions were held with suggestions considering the current situation of Covid-19 pandemic. It was noted that the budget will be finalised and presented for approval by the Joint Board meeting in June.

#### **Summary of the talk programme by Rtn. Lila B. Baniya on the impact of Covid-19 in the Nepalese economy with a focus on tourism sector**

Rtn. Lila B. Baniya gave his talk supported by a detailed power point presentation. While covering the impact of Covid-19 in general economy, he focussed his presentation on the tourism sector, which is his area of expertise. He first summarised the status of Covid-19 with latest statistics of the World, India, and Nepal. Nepalese economy is expected to shrink greatly (a growth forecast of 1.5 to 2.8% by World Bank) with a possibility of even a 'minus' growth a distinct reality. Reduction in export and import, trade deficit, unemployment and continued inflation would result in a general negative trend of the economy.

As for the tourism sector, currently international tourism is almost zero and it would take a long time for this to pick up. While tourist numbers in 2019 was 1,197,191, the figure as of May 2020 was only 215,124 and it is not expected to grow much this year. Top 5 countries of tourists coming to Nepal are from India, China, USA, UK, and Sri Lanka with the main purpose of tourism being holiday, followed by trekking, pilgrimage and others, respectively.

Tourism sector employs 6.7% of work force or some 1,027,000, which is targeted to reach 7% by 2028. Travel and tourism is expected to have attracted capital investment of NRs. 17.3 billion in 2018 and rise by 4.7% every year over the next ten years to reach NRs. 29.4 billion in 2028. However, he noted that there are a lot of informal sector employments that are not counted in these estimates.

Rtn. Baniya summarised the impact on tourism due to investments, employment, supply chain effect, product condition, HHS protocol and cost and changes in the patter of travel – all of these will be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Government of Nepal already cancelled the 'National Tourism Campaign – 2020' and the sector is going to be gravely impacted all through 2021 affecting direct as well as indirect employment. In the current context, he emphasised the need of promoting new areas of tourism and diverting investments such as the government's decision to allow two weeks of paid leave to encourage domestic tourism. He also showed a video clip of the protocol/preparations done at the airport of Kathmandu with social distancing measures when flights begin.

Following a brief Q/A session, on behalf of all present, President Rtn. Lalita C. Thapa thanked Rtn. Lila B. Baniya for a comprehensive presentation.