



ललित धारा

RI District 3292

Club No. 23126

Chartered: 29 August 1985

Past President & Editor: Bijaya Mallapaty Past President & Assistant Editor: Chandralekha Kayastha Secretary: Preeti Khemka

Issue No. 1370

Date: 8 Bhadra 2077 / 24 August 2020

<u>Today's Programme:</u> Regular Weekly Meeting	<u>Congratulatory Events</u> <u>Birthdays:</u> Rtn. Bijaya Bajracharya - 23 Aug & Rtn Sita Gurung – 25 Aug. <u>Wedding Anniversaries:</u> Nil
--	--

Minutes of Meeting No. 1719

Date: 1 Bhadra 2077 / 17 August 2020

1. President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang called the virtual RCP Meeting No.1719 through 'Zoom' to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for world peace, health, and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest speaker Gen. (Retd.) and President Rtn. K.N.S. Thapa, Ms. Meera Prajapati and Rotaract Club of Patan President Rtn. Kritika Sharma.
3. The last meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted.
4. Pledges of 'Happy News/Sunshine' contribution and to the Operational Fund marked as 'OF':
 - Rtn. Khadak S. Bisht – for 'Happy Birthday' of himself and his son (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang – for the above and for having the guest speaker of today (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey – for the talk programme of the guest speaker (NRs. 500), and for having a age guess competition of Gen. K.N.S. Thapa by RCP members today (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty (NRs. 500), Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary (NRs. 500) – for the talk programme of today.
 - Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty – for having Ms. Meera Prajapati as a guest via the RCP's Facebook page (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Ramesh L. Maskay – for good health and recovery from an operation (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtns. Padam L. and Kamala Maharjan – for participating in the 111th anniversary of RC New York. (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Shiv P. Khemka – for the talk programme and participating in the meeting after some time (NRs. 1,000).
 - Rtn. Maheswari Bisht Rawal – for her husband's and son's birthdays, and for her nomination in the municipal committee on the management of gender-based violence in the district (NRs. 500).
 - Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha – for today's good attendance (NRs. 500 to OF).
5. Other Contributions:
 - President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang confirmed the payment of US \$1,000 to the TRF as pledged earlier (\$500 to the Annual Fund and \$500 to Polio Plus).
 - Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty and Rtn. Gabriele Mallapaty pledged to contribute US \$200 each (Total US \$400) to the TRF for Polio Plus.
6. Rotary News/Information:
 - President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang shared the following:
 - Following request to the District Governor, confirmed the DG's official club visit for 29 August 2020 on the RCP's Charter Day virtually. Proposed agenda will be shared with all.
 - NRCL meeting held on 15 August 2020.
 - District's Club Strengthening Committee having 'Club Officers Training Seminar – COTS' planned for 30 August 2020. Interested members may join.
 - Interesting talk programmes held by RC Yala and District's E-Club on Cancer and Child Abuse, respectively. The RCP may also invite the speakers.
 - ICM held by the District with Bhawani Rana and Karna Shakya as key speakers on Economy/Covid-19 impact participated by PDG Rtn. Tirtha M. Sakya and Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary from the RCP.
 - My Rotary International website upgraded, but still having some problems time to time.
 - 111th Anniversary of the RC New York, USA participated by Rtns. Padam L. and Kamala Maharjan. RC New York is the 6th Rotary Club and it had brought the concept of 'We Serve' in Rotary and designed the first Rotary Pin.
7. Salutation: By PP Rtn. Kamal B. Nyachhyon – RC Athinai, Greece; Chartered: 1929 & Members: 100. District: 2470, Clubs: 70 & Members: 1714

8. Total contributions of NRs. 8,500 were pledged (NRs. 8,000 to the sunshine fund and NRs. 500 to the 'OF' of the RCP). Attendance: 2 guests, 1 Rotaract and 35 members.

Rotary Questions/Answers presented by Rtn. Ramesh L. Maskay

- Q.** Year when the 'Rotary Year' was fixed for 1 July to 30 June **A.** 1913 – fixed by the Ex. Committee of Rotary
- Q.** Month/Year of next Council on Legislation **A.** April 2022
- Q.** Month/Year when the Nepal Rotary Heart Foundation Red Cross Lalitpur Blood Transfusion Centre (Blood Bank) was established **A.** June 2014, through a GG of close to \$200,000 with 17 Korean Districts.

Summary of Talk Programme by Lt. Gen. Krishna Narayan Singh Thapa (Retired) and President of RC Kathmandu Mid-Town on UN Peacekeeping Operations

President Rtn. Nirmal K. Pradhanang welcomed the guest speaker and Rtn. Rabendra R. Pandey introduced him.

Lieutenant General (Retd.) K.N.S. Thapa, a graduate in Political Science from TU, comes from Muga in Dhankutta District and is married to Mrs. Eu Hazur Thapa. General Thapa joined the Royal Nepalese Army in 1957 and graduated from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, U.K. in 1959. Gen. Thapa had 39 years of meritorious service in the Nepalese Army and held many appointments in-country and outside the country.

Gen. Thapa's assignments included a mission to Manang and Mustang to evaluate the Khampa's situation in 1962; as Royal ADC to HM King Mahendra from 1966 to 1968; Military Attaché to the USA and Canada from 1973 to 1976; an assignment to UN headquarters to work out the details for a Nepalese Battalion for UN Emergency Force in Sinai desert; as Chief Humanitarian Officer in UNIFIL for six months in 1979; as Chief of Staff of UNIFIL for one year in 1987; as Chief of Staff of UNTSO in Jerusalem at the rank of Assistant Secretary General of the UN. Gen. Thapa was the first Nepalese General to be assigned as Commander of UN Peacekeeping mission to UNIKOM (United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observation Mission) from 1993 to 1995.

Gen. Thapa was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and retired from active service in October 1996. He is decorated by 'go.da.ba. first class', an avid Golf player, the current President of the Rotary Club of Kathmandu mid-town and President of Amarawati Cooperatives. He was also a founding member of the Institute of Foreign Affairs of Nepal.

Gen. Thapa took the RCP audience to the 'memory lane' of his illustrious career as summarised in his introduction above. Some examples of his notable contributions are recalled. During his time as the Royal ADC, he wrote an article in 'Ramjham' periodical expressing his vision for using the army for national development, self-reliance and UN peacekeeping missions. Coincidentally, he became the first Nepali General to be appointed as the Mission Commander of the UN Peacekeeping Mission bringing name and fame to Nepal and the 'Gorkha' Army. During his illustrious and impartial service for the UN, he had worked with four UN Secretaries-General.

After a mission to Manang and Mustang areas to evaluate the Khampa's situations, he submitted a comprehensive report on the Khampa's, recommending their planned settlement as refugees in Manang and Mustang and suggested the immediate withdrawal of the Indian personnel's who were present in Nepalese check posts as communication experts. His recommendations were accepted and implemented. Gen. Thapa also changed the use of smelly 'Usina' rice to regular rice to the delight of all the Nepalese army personnel.

Gen. Thapa introduced the concept of equal mission substance allowance (MSA) to all UN Peacekeepers (members of regular army or conscripts) building consensus on this among the 14 participating countries, which later became the UN policy. This has benefited the Nepal Army tremendously. For this endeavour, he noted the support of Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha who was posted at the Nepal Mission in New York at that time.

During his several assignments with the UN, he worked closely with other humanitarian branches of the UN such as UNICEF, UNESCO and UNHCR for the social security of the affected people. He recalled that his competence and impartial honesty was so well known that he was respected by both sides of a conflict during his peacekeeping assignments. As Force Commander, he contributed to the Israel/Jordan peace negotiations, Suez Canal, Iraq/Kuwait, and several other peacekeeping assignments. He also resolved the controversial issue of the 'Swastika' sign with the Nepalese one identified with a different colour that was accepted by all. Gen. Thapa is writing a book being published soon with the recollection of his eventful career and life.

Following brief comments by RCP members, on behalf of the RCP, Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to General K.N.S. Thapa for his contributions to heighten the image of Nepal in the UN Peacekeeping Operations, his illustrious career in the service of Nepal and his socially active life.